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MECHANISMS OF INTONATION PATTERNS VARIABILITY

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SUMMARY

The mechanisms of intonation models variation while interpreting attitudes in English are under discussion. A complex analysis of attitudinal intonation patterns polysemy from the point of view of its semantics and functions has been carried out.

The phenomena of polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, etc. are analyzed in intonation means expressing modal meaning. This characteristic, typical to lexical units of the language, is the evidence of the isomorphism different means of speech. The parallelism is not regarded as a complete analogy in the degree of correlation of vocabulary and intonation with semantics. The nature of correlation in these two cases is fundamentally different in quality and quantity.

Firstly, the lexeme in itself, nominally within the framework of a given language system, carries information about the semiological unit it describes, and often serves as the formal name of this unit. The intoneme does not carry nominal information about the semiological unit; this connection can only be expressed indirectly with the help of lexical means.

Secondly, the degree of study of the relationship between lexical and semiological units, on the one hand (exhaustively complete dictionaries reflecting different aspects of these connections), and between intonation and semiological units, on the other (fragmentary, unsystematized and often contradictory data on the semantic information of individual intonation models, regardless of the constitutive conditions of their functioning), is incommensurate.

Thirdly, the lexeme in speech is realized with the help of segmental means of the phonological system, and the variability of suprasegmental means does not affect the semantics of these units. Intonation units are formed due to contrasts of suprasegmental means and their variability determines the semantics of intonemes.

Key words: attitudes, intonation, variation, polyfunctionality, polysemy.

Introduction. The problem of intonation variability in oral speech is one of the most complicated and relevant at the current stage of linguistic development. Despite a significant number of studies devoted to the study of this problem, it should be noted that there is no unambiguous opinion on the issue of intonation means correlation with semantic units of speech (Bagmut, Borysiuk, Olijnyk 1980; Kalita 2001; Korolova 1989).

The aim of this work is to study the causes of variability in the mechanism of intonation means correlation (expressive side) and semantic units (content side) when expressing modal-evaluative meanings in spontaneous English speech. To solve the problem, a complex analysis of the experimental material was carried out in two directions: from means to meanings and from meanings to means. While the analysis “from form to meaning” is conducted one gets the opportunity to consider the mechanism of semantic variation of a specific prosodic model, i.e. to study not only the conditions of invariance of an idealized intonation construction (Korolova 1989), but the nature of its polysemy at the same time. When carrying out the analysis “from meaning to form”, the possibility of conveying a given meaning with the help of various prosodic models can be considered, which in this case are regarded as intonation synonyms.

Discussion. Polysemy of modal intonation is manifested in two aspects – semantic and functional. The implementation of the first aspect is associated with three linguistic phenomena on connection to the object under study: homonymy, hypernymy and the transfer of modal meanings. The phenomenon of homonymy in the intonation system is manifested in the fact that prosodic constructions similar (but not necessarily completely identical) in form are used to express heterogeneous modal meanings that are not connected either thematically or associatively. Thus, a descending-ascending tone in the nucleus with constant or insignificant variation of the quantitative characteristics of the melodic, force and temporal components of intonation can convey the meaning of partial concession: *I don't think much of him as a painter.* – *You think so.* And as an insult: *I haven't had time to write to you.* – *You think so.*

Hypernymy (the “species-genus” relationship) is an expansion of the meaning conveyed by the intonation contour corresponding to the component of the field of the fifth level (Korolova 1989) to a semiological unit that is a component of the species and even gender field. Expansion of the meaning of the intonation construction usually occurs in those cases when the contour, which when be used in conditions of neutralization of other means conveys some specific modal meaning, in implementations where the modal meaning of a more general content is notified by other linguistic means and conveys this expanded meaning. For example, a contour with a high fall of tone in the nucleus (can be combined with a stepping scale) under conditions of lexical-grammatical and paralinguistic means neutralization is used to express a warm attitude, disposition to the interlocutor: *Thank you very much.* – *It’s **pleasure**,* and in the context: *Did you enjoy the concert?* – *It’s **pleasure*** – conveys a broader, generalized meaning – reflects the speaker’s good mood.

Note that the opposite phenomenon – hyponymy (narrowing) – is not realized in the sphere of modal intonation, since semiological units of species and gender ranks, the meanings of which could generally be narrowed to the sphere of the constituents of the fields of the fifth level, do not have their own intonation models. In this case, we can only speak of hyponymy of the mediated prosodic model of a sememe – a member of a specific or generic field – in the sense that in specific communicative conditions, it is possible to implement some contour from the set that constitutes the “group prosodic portrait” of a given sememe.

The transfer of meanings is the most diverse (in terms of the number of possible manifestations) type of change in meaning conveyed by an intonation model. In general, it is divided into homogeneous and associative. Homogeneous transfer reflects the variation of meanings within a thematic series. In this case, this contour conveys meanings that differ from the original (basic, inherent, usual), but remain within one thematic group. The mechanism of meaning transformation within the framework of homogeneous transfer is associated with the implementation of equipollent, privative, gradual or enantiosemic relations.

Privacy is associated with a minimal (one differential seme) expansion of the original meaning. Equipollence implements the principle of graduality in its elementary form. The gradual type of meaning transfer is typical for a situation where lexical and grammatical means convey a vaguely expressed modal meaning, and prosodic means (often together with non-linguistic markers) concretize the modal relationship in accordance with the conditions of the constitution. For example, a contour that includes an ascending-descending nuclear tone and a stepped scale is most common when expressing the speaker's critical attitude in English: *I don't like the man.* – *You've **never even spoken to him.*** However, in a corresponding situation, it is used to convey a gradually differentiated meaning of refusal to be involved in something: *You know he's a liar.* – *You've **never even spoken to him.*** Moreover, this concretization of meaning is carried out exclusively by intonation means, without the participation of lexical and grammatical determinants.

Enantiosemy is the least common type of transfer, associated with the ability of the same intonation model to convey directly opposite modal meanings. The four types of transfer indicated transform the modal meaning within one thematic group. In contrast to them, the second type of transfer – associativity – is the ability of an intonation model to convey one or another occasional (unusual for itself) meaning based on some similarity, analogy with the usual meaning of this model. This is demonstrated in the fact that a prosodic construction, which is widely used to convey a certain familiar range of meanings, in some cases expresses a completely different meaning, most often related to another thematic field, manifested by contingent conditions. For example, a widespread construction with a low fall, in the nuclear tone, usually conveying the meanings of calm, disinterest, coldness, etc.: *You must be joking. Do you really like it?* – *Yes, **I do.*** in the appropriate situation can express modesty and even shyness: *You must be joking. Do you really study at Oxford?* – *Yes, **I do.*** In this case, we are talking about the identity of melody characteristics together with dynamic and temporal ones. Mnemonic diagrams characterizing the main mechanisms of the implementation of polysemy

of prosodic constructions in the sphere of linguistic modality are shown in Fig. 1.

Along with the semantic aspect of modal intonation polysemy, its functional aspect is often realized in speech. Polyfunctionality is the ability of an intonation contour that conveys some inherent meaning of the class of SEM (self-evaluative meanings) or EEM (emotional-evaluative meanings) and thereby performs a subjective-modal function, to implement (indirectly) some objective-modal function.

If the analysis “from form to meaning” allows us to identify the polysemy of intonation units, then conducting a study in the opposite direction (“from meaning to form”) reveals that prosodic constructions exhibit the phenomenon of synonymy. Thus, the meaning of doubt in some cases can be conveyed both by an ascending-descending contour: *It is a faster car.* – **Definitely?** and by a descending-ascending contour: *Tell him that he’s fired.* – **Definitely.** Even under the conditions of a neutral nature of lexical-grammatical and paralinguistic means, such two contours are perceived by listeners as intonation synonyms. Absolute intonation synonyms (i.e. two different intonation contours that have the same common and occasional meanings) do not exist. Relative intonation synonyms can be classified by the degree of commonality of the meanings they convey (close, intermediate, distant).

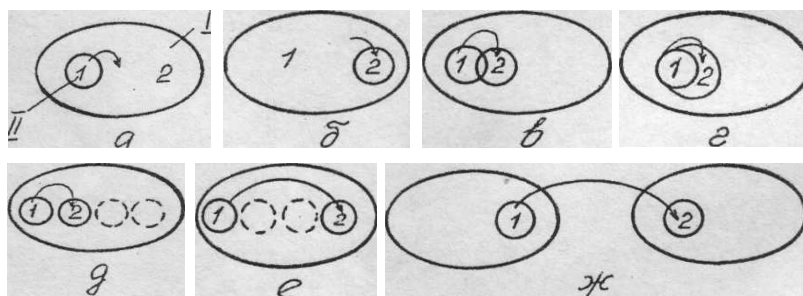


Fig. 1. Mechanisms manifesting polysemy of intonation patterns:

- a – hypernymy; b – hyponymy; c – equipolency;
- d – privativity; e – graduality; f – enantiosemy;
- g – associativity; 1,2 – interacting semantic units;
- I – archisememe; II – differential seme

In addition to synonymy, within the framework of the analysis “from meaning to form” in the sphere of modal intonation, the phenomenon of antonymy is found. In particular, the descending nuclear tone (*When did I see you last? – In the spring*) and the ascending tone (*When did I see you last? – In the spring*), expressing confidence and uncertainty, respectively, can in a certain sense be attributed to intonation antonyms.

Conclusion. All the above-described phenomena (polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, etc.), revealed in the analysis of intonation means expressing modal meanings, are fully characteristic to lexical units of the language, which is evidence of the isomorphism of diverse means of speech. This parallelism, naturally, does not give grounds to speak of a complete analogy in the degree of correlation of vocabulary with semantics and intonation with semantics. The nature of correlation in these two cases is fundamentally different, and the difference is both qualitative and quantitative. Firstly, the lexeme in itself, nominally within the framework of a given language system, carries information about the semiological unit it describes, and often serves as the formal name of this unit. The intoneme does not carry nominal information about the semiological unit; this connection can only be expressed indirectly with the help of lexical means. Secondly, the degree of study of the relationship between lexical and semiological units, on the one hand (exhaustively complete dictionaries reflecting different aspects of these connections), and between intonation and semiological units, on the other (fragmentary, unsystematized and often contradictory data on the semantic information of individual intonation models, regardless of the constitutive conditions of their functioning), is incommensurate. Thirdly, the lexeme in speech is realized with the help of segmental means of the phonological system, and the variability of suprasegmental means does not affect the semantics of these units. Intonation units are formed due to contrasts of suprasegmental means and their variability determines the semantics of intonemes.

The fact of violation of the invariance of intonation models in real speech acts is often incorrectly interpreted as evidence of the absence of a meaning-distinguishing function in intonation.

However, this is as illogical as refusing to recognize the meaning-distinguishing capabilities of lexical units on the grounds that they are characterized by the phenomena of polysemy, synonymy, etc. At the same time, there is no reason to assert that an isolated intonation construction can be unambiguously correlated with a certain semiological unit. This is caused by a number of phenomena that determine the polysemy and polyfunctionality of all (including intonation) linguistic units and the interaction of intonation means of expressing modality with other (non-intonation) markers. Here, both the principle of economy and the principle of redundancy in the language system are manifested.

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МЕХАНІЗМИ ВАРІАТИВНОСТІ ІНТОНАЦІЙНИХ СТРУКТУР

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АНОТАЦІЯ

У статті обговорюються механізми варіації інтонаційних моделей під час інтерпретації модальності в англійській мові. Проведено комплексний аналіз полісемії інтонаційних моделей ставлення з погляду її семантики та функцій.

Аналізуються явища полісемії, синонімії, антонімії в інтонаційних засобах, які виражають модальні значення. Використання просодії для диференціації зазначених лексичних явищ є свідченням ізоморфізму різноманітних засобів мови. Паралелізм не розглядається як повна аналогія ступеня

кореляції лексики та інтонації із семантикою. Характер кореляції в цих двох випадках принципово відрізняється за якістю та кількістю.

По-перше, лексема сама по собі, номінально в рамках даної мовної системи, несе інформацію про семіологічну одиницю, яку вона описує, і часто служить формальною назвою цієї одиниці. Інтонація не несе номінальної інформації про семіологічну одиницю; Цей зв'язок може бути виражений лише опосередковано за допомогою лексичних засобів.

По-друге, ступінь вивченості взаємозв'язку між лексичними та семіологічними одиницями, з одного боку (пор. вичерпно повні словники, що відображають різні аспекти цих зв'язків), і між інтонаційними та семіологічними одиницями, з іншого (пор. фрагментарні, несистематизовані та часто суперечливі дані про семантичну інформацію окремих інтонаційних моделей незалежно від конститутивних умов їх функціонування), є несутірним.

По-третє, лексема в мовленні реалізується за допомогою сегментних засобів фонологічної системи, а варіативність надсегментних засобів не впливає на семантику цих одиниць. Інтонаційні одиниці утворюються завдяки контрастам надсегментних засобів, а їхня варіативність визначає семантику інтоном.

Ключові слова: ставлення, інтонація, варіативність, поліфункціональність, полісемія.

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