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THE PHONETIC-PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE IN HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

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SUMMARY

Introduction. *The article examines the formation and development of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language in a historical aspect. The main stages of the formation of the sound system of the Ukrainian language from the Proto-Slavic period to the modern Ukrainian language are analyzed. Special attention is paid to the phonetic processes that influenced the formation of the modern phonological system of the Ukrainian language, in particular, changes in vowels and consonants, the phenomena of reduction, palatalization and alternation of sounds.*

The purpose of the study is to identify the features of the formation and development of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language in historical discourse, as well as to determine the main phonetic processes that influenced the formation of the modern sound structure of the language.

The research **methodology** is outlined by the comprehensive use of methods used in modern linguistics, in particular descriptive, structural, comparative-historical methods of studying the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language in historical discourse.

Results. *The marker of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language in the diachronic aspect and the role of the law of open syllable in this process are established. The decline of reduced vowels, palatalization processes, changes in the system of vowels and consonants, as well as various phonetic alternations of the Proto-Slavic and Old Ukrainian periods are characterized. It has been proven that all these processes contributed to the formation of the modern sound system of the Ukrainian language, which is*

characterized by a wealth of phonological oppositions and a clear structural organization.

The research material gives grounds to assert that the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language was formed on the basis of the Proto-Slavic linguistic heritage. The Proto-Slavic language was characterized by a developed system of vowel and consonant phonemes, including reduced vowels (the so-called ъ and ь), reflexes of which played an important role in the phonological structure of the Ukrainian word. It is evident that in the process of historical development, changes occurred in both the system of vowels and consonants. In particular, new phonemes were formed, the methods of their implementation changed, and the system of phonological oppositions expanded. A significant role in these processes was played by assimilation, dissimilation, simplification of consonant groups, alternation of sounds, etc.

Key words: *Ukrainian language, phonetics, phonology, historical phonetics, phoneme, sound system, language evolution.*

Introduction

Relevance. The issues of the historical evolution of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language require further comprehensive understanding taking into account modern linguistic approaches, which serves as the **relevance** of the study.

The phonetic-phonological system is one of the main components of any language, since it determines the organization of sound units, their functioning and interaction in speech. The study of the historical development of the sound system of the Ukrainian language allows us to understand more deeply the patterns of its formation, the evolution of the phonemic composition and the specifics of the modern phonological structure.

The formation of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language took place over a long historical period and was determined by both intralinguistic regularities and external factors associated with historical, social and cultural processes. **The purpose of the study** is to identify the features of the formation and development of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language in historical discourse, as well as to determine the main phonetic processes that influenced the formation of the modern sound structure of the language.

Methodological principles of the study: the descriptive method is used to systematize and characterize the phonetic and phonological phenomena of the Ukrainian language. It allows you

to describe the composition of phonemes, their articulatory and acoustic properties, positional variants and patterns of functioning; the phonological (structural) method is aimed at establishing systemic relationships between phonemes, determining their differential features, analyzing oppositions and phonological correlations in the language system; the method of distributive analysis makes it possible to study the distribution of phonemes in different positions of a word and syllable, to determine the patterns of their functioning and positional variants; the method of minimal pairs is used to establish the phonemic status of sounds by comparing words that differ in only one sound and have different meanings; the comparative method allows you to compare the phonetic and phonological features of the Ukrainian language with other languages or with different stages of its development, which helps to identify specific features of the system; Elements of acoustic analysis are used to study the physical characteristics of speech sounds (frequency, duration, intensity), which helps to more accurately describe their phonetic nature. Research methods: phonetic transcription of speech material; analysis of phonemic oppositions; classification of sounds by articulatory and acoustic features; analysis of positional and combinatorial changes of sounds; generalization and systematization of research results allow for a comprehensive study of the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language and the identification of patterns in its functioning.

Results

The problem of historical phonetics and phonology of the Ukrainian language has been studied by many domestic linguists. A significant contribution to the study of the historical development of the sound system has been made by such scientists as O. O. Potebnya, A. Yu. Krymsky, I. I. Ohienko, G. Y. Shevelov and others. Their works are devoted to the reconstruction of the Proto-Slavic sound system, the study of phonetic changes in East Slavic languages and the formation of the phonological structure of the Ukrainian language. The Proto-Slavic language is reconstructed through the comparative-historical study of Slavic languages with the involvement of typological data. Its study was carried out by G. P. Pivtorak, V. G. Sklyarenko,

M. Nakonechny, M. A. Zhovtobryukh, Yu. O. Karpenko, N. I. Totska, L. A. Bulakhovsky, O. S. Melnychuk, E. K. Tymchenko, A. Schleicher, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, A. Leskin, V. Yagych, T. Lehr-Splavinsky, J. Rozvadovsky, N. Van-Wijk, F. Miklosych, A. Meillet, and others.

The phonetic-phonological system of the modern Ukrainian literary language is the result of long-term and multifaceted changes in the sound system of the historical predecessors of the Ukrainian language, in particular, Proto-Slavic, which inherited the phonetic system of the ancient Indo-European language, and there are many that arose later - in the era of dialect consolidation, during the period of the existence of the language of the Ukrainian people or the Ukrainian national language (Zhylyko1963: 27–35).

One of the key patterns of phonetic changes is the tendency to simplify articulation, which is realized through assimilation, dissimilation, reduction and elision of sounds. For example, assimilative processes in the Ukrainian language contribute to the coordination of consonants by voicing/deafness or softness/hardness, which facilitates pronunciation and increases the pace of speech. At the same time, dissimilation performs the opposite function – it prevents excessive similarity of sounds, ensuring clarity of perception (Shevelov 1979).

Proto-Indo-European had a branched system of vowels, which differed in their quality and duration: In its system of vocalism (vowels), short and long sounds were distinguished. Among them are monophthongs, diphthongs and syllable-forming sonants, namely: monophthongs: short – [*ā], [*ō], [*ū], [*ī], [*ē], довгі – [*ā̄], [*ō̄], [*ū̄], [*ī̄], [*ē̄]; diphthongs: short – [*ēi], [*ēu], [*āi], [*āu], [*ōi], [*ōu], long – [*ēī], [*ēū], [*āī], [*āū], [*ōī], [*ōū]; syllable-forming sonants: short – [*ṛ̥], [*ḷ̥], [*ṇ̥], [*ṁ̥], long – [*ṝ], [*ḹ], [*ṇ̄], [*ṁ̄].

The following sounds probably functioned in the consonant system (there is no consensus in linguistic science on the number of consonants in the Proto-Indo-European language): labial – [*b], [*p], [*bh], [*ph], [*u]; anterior lingual – [*d], [*t], [*s] – dental; [*dh], [*th] – inspiratory dental, [*n], [*m] – nasal, [*r], [*l] – smooth; mid-tongued – [*j]; posterior lingual – [*g],

[*k], [*gh], [*kh] – pure, [*g^u], [*k^u], [*g^{uh}], [*k^{uh}] – labialized, [*gʲ], [*kʲ] – semipalatalized. The system of Proto-Indo-European vocalism and consonantism underwent qualitative and quantitative changes during its historical development, as a result of which a new phonetic-phonological system of the Proto-Slavic language appeared, which, in turn, also underwent significant historical changes, the consequences of which are also present in the modern Ukrainian language (Zalesky 1985: 10–17).

In the history of the Proto-Slavic language, processes began to occur that led to phonetic changes in the structure of the Proto-Slavic syllable. G. Y. Shevelov makes assimilation evident in consonant clusters + j: “...a new doubling could develop on the basis of the compounds cʹ+j only after the decline of period, since it affected only softened consonants, and labial consonants, unlike mid-palatal consonants, fell out of the influence of this trend, so its onset had to occur after the hardening of labial consonants at the end of the syllable” (Shevelev 2002: 629).

The law of the open syllable is a phonetic law that operated in the Proto-Slavic, Old Slavonic, and Old Russian languages, according to which a syllable necessarily ended in a vowel or a syllable-forming sonant, and the sounds within it were arranged from the least loud to the most loud, for example: **pb-sa-ti*, Old Slav. *nu-ca-mu*, Ukr. *nu-ca-mu*; **bor-da*, Old Slav. *бра-да*, Ukr. *бо-ро-да*. It caused such important phonetic changes as the decline of consonants at the end of words, the development of prosthetic consonants, the movement of syllable boundaries, simplification, assimilation (assimilation of consonants before *j, which gave the Proto-Slavic language palatal consonants) and dissimilation changes in consonant groups, monophthongization of diphthongs, formation of nasal vowels and syllable-forming sonants (Ziniakova, Ponomarenko 2017).

A historical phonetic phenomenon caused by the action of the law of the open syllable is the decline of ultra-short reduced vowels [ɨ], [ɛ]. Historically, Proto-Slavic short [*ɨ], [*ɛ] have undergone reduction, turning into ultra-short reduced vowels [ɨ̆], [ɛ̆], for examples: *сѣнь*, *мѣхъ*, *гость*. “Many phonetic changes associated with the decline of reduced ones were pan-Slavic, but a significant number of these changes in different

Slavic areas produced distinctive results that became new distinctive features of individual Slavic languages” (Pivtorak 2015: 391). Decline of the ultrashort vowels [ɨ], [ʲ] in a weak position led to the emergence of new patterns in syllable division, since the consonant that stood before the reduced one and formed a syllable with it, now moved to the previous syllable and closed it: *кѣ-ни-жѣ-ка* → *книж-ка*, *правѣ-да* → *прав-да*, *сѣ-нѣ* → *сон*, *са-дѣ* → *сад*. In this regard, the number of syllables in a word decreased and new closed syllables were formed, and the law of the arrangement of sounds in a syllable according to their increasing sonority ceased to apply (Shevelov 1964).

Due to vocalization of the strong reduced vowels [ɨ], [ʲ], except for the old vowels inherited from the Proto-Slavic period [ʲo], [ʲe], or they are also called etymological: *воза*, *ночі*, *села*, *меду*, new words also appeared in the ancient Kyivan dialect [o], [e], so-called secondary (from Latin *secundus* – second), secondary: *овѣсѣ* → *овес*, *сѣнѣ* → *сон*, *шѣвѣць* → *швець*, *сѣтънѣжѣ* → *сотня*, *орѣль* → *орел*, *пѣсѣкъ* → *пѣсок*. Ultrashort reduced vowels [ɨ], [ʲ] in different forms of the same word or in related words could be strong and weak, therefore, in one position they turned into vowels of full formation [o], [e], and in the second – they disappeared, which led to the emergence of a phonetic phenomenon in the modern Ukrainian language – the alternation of secondary vowels [o], [e] with [ш]: *сон* – *сна*, *орел* – *орла*, *женецѣ* – *женця* etc. In old Ukrainian monuments, the alternation of [o], [e] with [ø], which arose as a result of the decline of ultra-short reduced vowels [ɨ], [ʲ] in weak positions and their vocalization in strong ones, is observed quite often: *вѣтер* – *вѣтряний*, *вѣрен* – *вѣрно*, *овесѣ* – *вовса*, *гривенѣ* – *гривна*, *гоню* – *прогнати*, *старецѣ* – *старицю*, *праведный* – *правду*, *вогонѣ* – *вогню*, *вѣтер* – *вѣтру*, *зоветсѣя* – *прозвасѣя*, *сто* – *сотий* etc. Having arisen as a phonetic phenomenon, the alternation of /o/, /e/ with [ø] began to be realized at the morphological level, performing one of the functions in the creation of new word forms and new words, that is, it acquired a morphological meaning (Karpenko, Bondar, Mykutyń-Družhynets 2006: 37).

To the decline of the reduced [ɨ], [ʲ] in combinations of several consonants it could only be at the beginning of a syllable.

In a two-sound combination, only fricative + sonorous, plosive + sonorous, voiced fricative + voiced plosive, voiceless fricative + voiceless plosive were combined. For example: *сло-во, сте-на, гне-здо, тра-ва*. Due to the decline of reduced vowels [ъ], [ь] a number of new consonant combinations were formed. Some of them turned out to be difficult to pronounce and therefore began to be simplified. As is known, three sound combinations were simplified, the middle consonant of which was a penetrating one [д] or [т], and the final one is sonorous [н], [л] or affricate [ц]: [здн] → [зн] – *поздно* → *пѣздно* → *пѣзно* → *пѣзно*; [жд'н] → [жн] – *кожъд'ний* → *кож'д'ний* → *кожний*; [ст'н] → [сн] – *радостно* → *радѣс'тно* → *радѣсно* → *радѣсно*; *чьстьний* → *чест'ний* → *чесний*; [ст'л] → [сл] – *ст'лати* → *ст'лати* → *лати*; [рд'ц] → [рц] – *сърдьце* → *серд'це* → *серце*; [ст'ц] → [сц] – *мъстьце* → *мъст'це* → *мъсце* → *місце*. There was also a simplification of three-sound combinations, in which two sonorants stood side by side: [сл'н] → [сн] – *масльний* → *масл'ний* → *масний*; [лн'ц] → [нц] – *сълньце* → *солн'це* → *сонце*; [рн'ч] → [нч] – *гърньчарь* → *горн'чар* → *гончар*. In the Old Kyivan dialect, as a result of the decline of reduced [ъ], [ь], not only did groups of consonants become simpler, but new consonants were also inserted into them.

The operation of the law of the open syllable according to the principle of ascending sonority caused changes in the consonant groups of the Proto-Slavic language, which was inherited from the Indo-European base language and clarified in the Old Slavonic language. In consonant groups, one or two consonants within one syllable were simplified. The most commonly used consonant groups that underwent simplification were: 1) *bs, *ps, *ds, *ts, *ss → [c]: *grě-bsъ → *grē-sъ → ст.-сл. грѣ-сѣ; *ǫ-psā → ст.-сл. о-са; *vě-dsъ → vē-sъ → ст.-сл. → вѣ-сѣ; *mě-tsъ → *mē-sъ → ст.-сл. мѣ-сѣ; 2) *bt, *pt, *kt → [t]: *grě-btī → ст.-сл. гре-ти; *tě-ptī → ст.-сл. те-ти; *pen-ktъ → ст.-сл. пѣ-тъ; 3) *bn, *pn, *dn, *tn → [n]: *gū-bnon-tī → ст.-сл. съ-гы-нж-ти; *pren-dnon-tī → ст.-сл. прѣ-нж-ти; *svī-tnon-tī → ст.-сл. о-свь-нж-ти; 4) *dm, *tm → [m]: *dā-dmъ → ст.-сл. да-мь; *vě-rtmen → ст.-сл. врѣ-мѣ; 5) *dl, *tl → [l]: *vě-dlъ → ст.-сл. вѣ-лъ; *mě-tlъ → ст.-сл. мѣ-лъ; 6) *bv →

[б]: *ǫ-bvor-tī-tī → ст.-сл. о-бра-ти-ти; *ǫ-bvol-kǫ → ст.-сл. о-бла-ко; 7) *skn → [сн]: *tī-sknon-tī → ст.-сл. ти-снж-ти; 8) *kst → [ст]: *rē-kste → ст.-сл. рѣ-сте.

The simplification of consonant clusters was accompanied by assimilative and dissimilative phonetic processes. Assimilation (from the Latin *assimilatio* – assimilation) of consonant sounds by voicelessness/voicedness, hardness/softness was carried out by the transition of voiced consonants to voiceless in positions before voiceless consonants and the change of hard consonants to soft before soft consonants (Brakhnov 1970: 58). For example: 1) *jъz-su-šī-tī → ст.-сл. и-ссоу-ши-ти (voiced consonant *z before voiceless *s has changed into voiceless *s) → *и-ссоу-ши-ти* (the consonant cluster *cc* simplified into a consonant *c*); 2) *mǫ-gtī → *mǫ-ktī → ст.-сл. мо-шти (voiced consonant *g before voiceless *t became voiceless). Dissimilation (from Latin *dissimilatio* ‘separation’) of consonant sounds extended to groups of consonants, when through dissimilation by the method of formation the first punctuating consonant changed to a fricative, which corresponded to the principle of ascending sonority, the tendency towards which was decisive in the phonetic structure of words of the Proto-Slavic language: 1) *dt → *tt → *st: *vǫ-dtī → *vǫ-ttī → *vǫ-stī → ст.-сл. ве-сти; 2) *tt → *st: *mǫ-ttī → ст.-сл. ме-сти; *ple-ttī → *ple-stī → ст.-сл. пле-сти.

The process of the decline of reduced vowels in the 11th century was an accumulator of certain phonetic phenomena in word syllables: 1) within one syllable, groups of consonants appeared, with which the syllable began: *бн, нн, дн, тн, дл, тл, пс: пти-ца, все-гда, се-дло, коу-пно, жи-тни-ца, свѣ-тла*; 2) processes of assimilation of consonant sounds according to voicedness/voicelessness appeared: *ль-гѣ-ка → ль-гка → ль-кка → ль-кѣка*; 3) assimilation based on the hardness/softness of consonant sounds: *скрѣ-бѣ-на → скрѣ-бна* (consonant [б] before a front vowel it was semi-softened, and after the decline of reduced vowels in the position before a hard consonant it lost its positional semi-softening).

The simplification of consonant groups is illustrated by verb form and word formation. For example, in the forms

of the first person singular and plural, as well as the second person singular of athematic verbs, the result of the reduction of the consonant group is evident: **vĕděti* – the first person singular **vĕdmь* → ст.-сл. *вѣмь*, the second person singular **vĕdsi* → ст.-сл. *вѣси*, the first person plural **vĕdmь* → *вѣмь*; **dadti* – the first person singular **dadmь* → ст.-сл. *дамь*, the second person singular **dadsi* → ст.-сл. *даси*, I the first person plural **dadmь* → ст.-сл. *дамь*. It is noteworthy that in the forms of the third person singular a group of consonants **dt* → **st* appeared. For example, **dadti* → **dastь*. According to researchers, this dissimilation process took place even before the law of open composition came into effect: comp. **vedti* → **vesti* → ст.-сл. *всс-ми* ~ Lith. *vėsti*; **metti* → ст.-сл. *мсс-ми* ~ Lith. *mė̀s-ti* etc.

The simplification of consonant groups occurred due to the decline of one of the elements of the compound, sometimes this process was accompanied by a previous lengthening of the vowel compound. An example is the creation of forms of the archaic sigmatic aorist from verbs with an infinitive base on a consonant: ст.-сл. *вєсти* ← **vedti* (the first person singular **ved-s-om* → **vĕd-sь* → **vĕsь* → ст.-сл. *вѣсь*, the first person plural ст.-сл. *вѣсомь* etc.); ст.-сл. *бости* ← **bodti* (the first person singular **bod-s-om* → **bōd-sь* → **basь* → ст.-сл. *бась*); ст.-сл. *чьсти* ← **kitti* (the first person singular **kīt-s-om* → **čīt-sь* → **čisь* → ст.-сл. *чись*). It is noteworthy that the verb segments inherited from the Common Slavic era are most clearly expressed in the Old Slavic verb system, and in the course of the development of individual Slavic languages, they underwent changes, which gave rise to the emergence of parallel synonymous verb types with modified phonetic changes. For example, the South Slavic and West Slavic movement of the type **-ajō*, **-aješi*, **-ati* to the type of **-m*, **-š*, **-ati*: Serbian-Croatian *čuvam*, *čuvaž*, *čuvati*, Slovak *igrám*, *igráš*, *igráti*, Polish *bywam*, *bywasz*, *bywać*, Czech *dělám*, *děláš*, *děláti* and East Slavic *думаю*, *думаєш*, *думати*, in Old Slavic *думаѣхъ*, *думаєши*, *думати* (Shevelov 1979).

Conclusions

Thus, the phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language was formed as a result of a long historical development that covered various stages of linguistic evolution. An important role in this process was played by the decline of reduced vowels, palatalization processes, changes in the system of vowels and consonants, as well as various phonetic alternations. All these processes contributed to the formation of the modern sound system of the Ukrainian language, which is characterized by a wealth

of phonological oppositions and a clear structural organization. The phonetic-phonological system of the Ukrainian language was formed on the basis of the Proto-Slavic linguistic heritage. The Proto-Slavic language was characterized by a developed system of vowels and consonants, including reduced vowels (the so-called *epu* – *ѣ* and *ь*), which played an important role in the phonological structure of the word.

One of the key processes in the development of the sound system was the decline of reduced vowels in the 11th–13th centuries. In a strong position, reduced vowels turned into full vowels, while in a weak position they disappeared. This process led to significant changes in the structure of the syllable and the emergence of new phonetic alternations. Palatalization processes also played an important role in the formation of the Ukrainian phonetic system (Serbenska 1999: 34–38). Palatalization of consonants, characteristic of Slavic languages, led to the formation of soft consonants and influenced the further differentiation of phonemes. As a result, an extensive system of oppositions of hard and soft consonants arose.

Another important historical process was the alternation of vowels, in particular the phenomenon of ikavism, which consists in the transition of the old vowel *o* or *e* into the sound *i* and in certain positions. This phenomenon is one of the characteristic features of the Ukrainian language and distinguishes it from other Slavic languages.

In the process of historical development, changes also occurred in the consonant system. In particular, new phonemes were formed, the methods of their implementation changed, and the system of phonological oppositions expanded. Assimilation, dissimilation, simplification of consonant groups, and alternation of sounds played a significant role in these processes. Further research in this area can be aimed at an in-depth analysis of the dialectal features of the Ukrainian language and their influence on the formation of the national language norm.

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ФОНЕТИКО-ФОНОЛОГІЧНА СИСТЕМА УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ МОВИ В ІСТОРИЧНОМУ ДИСКУРСІ

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АНОТАЦІЯ

Вступ. У статті акцентовано на окремих питаннях становлення та розвитку фонетико-фонологічної системи української мови в історичному аспекті. Проаналізовано

основні етапи формування звукової системи української мови від праслов'янського періоду до сучасної української мови. Особливу увагу приділено фонетичним процесам, які вплинули на формування сучасного фонологічного ладу української мови, зокрема змінам голосних і приголосних, явищам редукції, палаталізації та чергування звуків.

Метою дослідження є особливості формування та розвитку фонетико-фонологічної системи української мови в історичному дискурсі, а також визначення основних фонетичних процесів, які вплинули на становлення сучасної звукової структури мови.

Методологія дослідження окреслена комплексним використанням методів, застосовуваних у сучасній лінгвістиці, зокрема описового, структурного, порівняльно-історичного методів дослідження фонетико-фонологічної системи української мови в історичному дискурсі.

Результати. Установлено маркер фонетико-фонологічної системи української мови в діахронному аспекті і роль у цьому процесі закону відкритого складу. Схарактеризовано занепад редукованих голосних, палаталізаційні процеси, зміни у системі голосних і приголосних, а також різноманітні фонетичні чергування праслов'янського та власне українського періодів. Засвідчено, що усі ці процеси сприяли формуванню сучасної звукової системи української мови, яка характеризується багатством фонологічних опозицій та чіткою структурною організацією.

Матеріал дослідження дає підстави стверджувати, що фонетико-фонологічна система української мови формувалася на основі праслов'янської мовної спадщини. Праслов'янська мова характеризувалася розвиненою системою голосних і приголосних фонем, редукованих голосних (так звані ери – ь та ъ) включно, рефлекси яких відігравали важливу роль у фонологічній структурі українського слова. Вочевидно, що у процесі історичного розвитку відбувалися зміни як у системі голосних, так і приголосних. Зокрема, формувалися нові фонемні, змінювалися способи їх реалізації та розширювалася система фонологічних опозицій. Значну роль у цих процесах відігравали асиміляція, дисиміляція, спрощення приголосних груп, чергування звуків тощо.

Ключові слова: українська мова, фонетика, фонологія, історична фонетика, фонема, звукова система, мовна еволюція.

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