

INTONATION OF ENGLISH AND KAZAKH LANGUAGES

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Language is a means of forming storing ideas as reflection of reality and exchanging them in the process of human intercourse. Language is social by nature; it is inseparably connected with the people who are its creators and users; it grows and develops together with the development of society through communication. When we communicate using sounds we clearly do a good deal more than simply string allophones together to make up words, but in speech words are not used in isolation. Words are used in order to present some information, to build a sentence. Sentence, in its turn, is the immediate integral unit of speech built up of words according to a definite syntactic pattern and distinguished by a contextually relevant communicative purpose. It can perform this function not only because it consists of words that are made up definite sounds, have a definite meaning and follow each other in a definite order according to the rules of the language, but also because it possesses definite phonetic features without which the sentence cannot exist. These features are closely connected with the meaning of the utterance as a whole and carry important information that the words of the utterance do not convey. They are superimposed upon the sounds making up the sentence in the process of speech and are inseparable from it. The point of view of the well-known American phonetician R. Kingdon sounds as follows: «Intonation is the soul of a language, while the pronunciation of its sound is its body and the recording of it in writing and printing gives a very imperfect picture of the body and hardly hints at the existence of a soul» [5: 25].

So, we can see that intonation plays an important role in the process of human intercommunication. On the other hand, it points to different communicative types of sentences, and on the other, it indicates the attitude and emotions of the speaker. Intonation is an essential component of the discourse structure of speech. We speak in order to communicate, and we need to interact with our listeners to do this. We must indicate what type of information we are presenting and how it is structured and at the same time we must keep our listeners' attention and their participation in the exchange of information. Communicative interaction would be much more difficult without intonation: some misunderstandings may arise between people in the exchange of e-mail messages, letters where intonation cannot play a role, even in everyday's life, especially between foreigners and native speakers.

The foreign well-known phoneticians L. E. Armstrong and I. C. Ward tell of an incident when a foreigner has not understood in England because of his wrong use of intonation. «A German who speaks English very well was not understood by a bus conductor when he asked for a ticket to Queen's Lane with stress and intonation 'Queen's 'Lane instead of 'Queen's Lane, although his sounds were perfect. This shows the important part that these two elements of speech – stress and intonation...» [1: 3].

The message we convey depends just as much on how we say something as on what we actually say. In order to achieve such result we are to choose the proper, necessary pitch of voice and make it higher or lower at will.

The phoneticians compare this hesitation in the pitch of voice with the waves of the ocean. Waves rise and fall as pitch of the voice and loudness go up and down. A.V. Vassilyev's point of view coincides with this statement, he writes in his book «The surface of the ocean responds to the forces that act upon it in movements resembling the ups and downs of human voice» [6: 114].

It is clear that when we are expressing emotions, we also use different voice qualities, different speaking rates, facial expressions, gestures according to our psychological state and to the grammar of the utterance pronounced.

In order to understand what intonation is we can refer to the scientific works of a lot of phoneticians who investigated it and tried to give their own definitions on the point of intonation and came to the definite conclusion. Up to the present time intonation has been defined in terms of modifications of tone, pitch or musical notes.

Professor D. Jones states that «Intonation may be defined as the variations which take place in the pitch of the voice in connected speech, that is the variations in the pitch of the musical note produced by the vibration of the vocal cords» [2: 275].

The well-known Kazakh linguist A. Khasenov defines intonation as follows: «Intonation is a phenomenon which makes a sentence a real sentence, which connects the parts of the sentence with each other and which gives the emotional-expressive colour to the grammatical patterns relating to the melody, rhythm, speed, tempo and timbre, sentence and logical stress of the speaking» [4: 251].

We see that the linguists of different countries have their own viewpoints about intonation and it proves that the intonation of every language differs from others. In order to learn or investigate the intonation of foreign language we should compare it with our native language. Also we think that all learners of English as a foreign language should have the general idea of the different aspects of intonation. Unfortunately, it would be a bit difficult to learn to speak with proper intonation without being a witness of the real conversation between Englishmen and without comparing English intonation with the intonation used in the native language of the learner.

That is why we decide to analyze the intonation used in the communicative types of sentences on the basis of English and Kazakh languages.

The second part of the twentieth century has been marked by special attention to the investigation of intonational variation expressing emotions in speech. Being an indispensable component of oral communication, intonation with other linguistic and extra linguistic means serves to distinguish the communicative types of utterances, to identify the speaker and to convey his attitude towards the surrounding reality.

Taking into account the fact that monolanguage investigations of the intonation of the different utterances are extremely popular nowadays and that only few contrastive bilanguage researches are carried out, we have decided to analyze the intonational patterns of different types of sentences in order to find out similar features and peculiarities.

The material for this investigation is the samples of authentic Kazakh speech and the sentences taken from the research work of some phoneticians. We have decided to observe the situations, free talks where people interact in a way that appears spontaneous. We consider it relevant to study the intonation used in both languages in such a way as this is where human attitudes are revealed most explicitly. The focus of the investigation was made on the estimating intonation from the point of view of direction of tone (pitch voice) whether it is steady, upward or downward.

Four types of sentences are distinguished in English and Kazakh languages, they are declarative, exclamatory, interrogative and imperative.

Intonation of declarative type of sentences

The Kazakh linguist M. Karaev defines declarative sentence as a sentence used for the purpose of expressing thoughts concerning something or somebody [3: 162]. In order to express the thoughts more clearly and more expressive to the listener, the speaker must pay much attention to the rhythm and the melody in pronouncing the declarative sentence.

e.g. Мен достарыммен бірге қыдыруға бара жатырмын.

Kazakh speakers while declaring the information use the falling tone, categoric and matter-of-fact. The negative sentence of Kazakh language sounds as declarative with low voice-pitch. No matter whether speaker is self-confident, categoric, non-categoric, interested, or hesitates, he uses falling or high-falling tone in his speech.

e.g. Сенің тапсырмаңды ешкім орындай алмады.

In these negative sentences high-falling tone is appropriate to use as it conveys personal concern or involvement, and can express vigorous agreement.

In English high-falling tone is used to show also these very feelings as in Kazakh.

e.g. I cannot come in time because of the job.

But the peculiarity of intonation of English declarative sentence is that the speaker can use rising tone in order to make the sentences sound not categoric, assertive and separative, but soothing and reassuring as it is shown in the sentences.

e.g. I `promise I `shall not tell `anyone.

Unfortunately, in Kazakh language rising tone is applied to indicate the interrogative and exclamatory sentences.

e.g. Асқар кітап оқып жатыр.

If we pronounce this very sentence with rising tone as «Асқар кітап оқып жатыр?», it means that we are a little bit surprised, interested.

The intonation of declarative sentence can differentiate the sentence from the word combination in Kazakh language.

e.g. Ерден мұғалім келді.

In the sentence the words «Ерден мұғалім» are used as the word combination which has no complete content.

When we use these very words with the pause between them and with the falling tone, we may be sure that this word combination is turned into declarative sentence and is translated into English like this:

Ерден – мұғалім.

Yerden is a teacher.

If we change the tone or the direction of pitch of voice, declarative sentence may be changed only into exclamatory and interrogative sentences, but not into imperative one.

So, we may draw a conclusion that declarative sentence in Kazakh language is pronounced only with the falling tone when English declarative sentence may have both falling and rising tone according to the condition and feelings of the speaker.

Intonation of exclamatory type of sentences.

The exclamatory sentence is used to display such feelings as joy, offence, surprise, pity, disappointment, fear, mockery. The intonation of such kind of sentences in Kazakh is always high pitched. One more sign of the exclamatory sentence is the exclamatory mark put at the end of the grammatical pattern [3:163].

e.g. Қайран өткен жастық шақ!

In English speech we may hear the sentences carrying the features of emotions which are pronounced with the falling tone and which are used for the purpose to show the restrained, unsurprised, reserved and uninterested attitude of the speaker.

e.g. We hope so!

Time will show!

In general and in most cases exclamatory sentences have the rising tone and express only the positive emotions like joy, surprise and interest.

The prosody of interest in English and Kazakh speech is characterized by high pitch level, wide voice range and medium or low intensity. The differences in English and Kazakh intonation are traced in the direction of the terminal tone and the type of the scale: while in English utterances expressing interest are pronounced with the descending stepping scale and downward nucleus, Kazakh utterances are marked by the rising nucleus and either descending or level scale.

e.g. Неткен керемет жұмыс тапқансың!
What interesting job you have!

The prosodic features of surprise in English and Kazakh have few similarities in common intonation of interest. Besides high pitch level utterances expressing surprise in English are pronounced with two types of terminal tones – the falling or the rising-falling tone, while the Kazakh utterances have the rising tone only. The difference is that the pitch range of the basic emotion of surprise in English is predominantly narrow, while in Kazakh it is either narrow or wide.

e.g. Оның өзінің аман қалғанын-ай!
How has he read it so quickly!

Similar parameters of the positive basic emotion of joy are manifested in English and Kazakh speech in two aspects: the high pitch level and the high falling nucleus.

e.g. Сүйінші, біз бас жүлдені жеңіп алдық!
We have won in the competition!

Despite the components of intonation in Kazakh different introductory words also play the important role in building up the exclamatory sentences and in making the amplitude of intensity in comparison to English ones.

e.g. Ойпырым-ай! Күйеуінің мінезі қандай жаман еді! In Kazakh speech there are sentences which play the role of both exclamatory and interrogative sentences and which have either an exclamatory or question mark at the end of the sentence.

e.g. Кешірім сұрап келгенменен не пайда!?

The analysis shows that the greetings, farewell, apology and their intonation used in English and Kazakh languages are similar. If we take for instance the formal greetings «Good morning»! which has its equivalent in Kazakh language «Қайырлы таң»! we can see that their intonation is low pitched and is pronounced with falling tone. For expressing friendly mood these very exclamations sound with the rising tone.

There are such neutral greetings as «How do you do»? «How are you»? in English may be translated into Kazakh as «Сәлеметсіз бе»? and they always end with the falling tone expressing distinct, complete, polite, serious atmosphere.

A bit different of its intonation is farewell «Good bye»! in English and Kazakh languages. Farewells in English are pronounced with rising tone making an accent on the friendly, joyful condition of the speaker.

e.g. Good bye! Have a nice day!

In Kazakh language all farewells are pronounced with falling tone or on the medium level in spite of the state of the speaker.

e.g. Сау болыңыз! Жақсы демалыңыз!

This peculiarity leads to the conclusion that Kazakh people treat the farewell more serious than English people do.

If the speaker is to beg pardon and regrets for the situation happened before the apologies «Sorry»! or «Excuse me»! are pronounced with the falling tone. It is very easy to mix up the apology pronounced with the rising tone which is used with the aim of asking to repeat the sentence once more and the real apology.

In Kazakh language such difference also exists. The Kazakh equivalent of this apology is «Кешіріңіз»!

We can see that the intonation of the exclamatory sentences may be changed according to the aim of expressing the or to the condition and mood of the speaker. Nevertheless, the exclamatory sentences in Kazakh language are pronounced in most cases with high pitch level and rising or rising falling tone.

Intonation of interrogative type of sentences.

In Kazakh language there are four types of interrogative sentences: general, special, alternative and disjunctive questions. The linguists pay much attention to the intonation of the interrogative sentence in Kazakh language [4: 25].

e.g. – Айғаным мен Ілияс көнетін емес.
– Көнетін емес?
– Иә, көнетін түрі жоқ...

In these sentences the words «Көнетін емес?» « may have both the interrogative and exclamatory meaning with the help of intonation.

If in English the general question begins with the auxiliary verb or modal verb, in Kazakh language the feature that shows that this question is general one is the interrogative particles like *ба, бе, ма, ме*.

e.g. Do you speak English?
Сіз ағылшын тілін білесіз бе?

The answer to this question should be as in English language «Yes» or «No» «Иә» or «Жоқ». It is evident that in English the general questions are pronounced with rising tone. This feature of intonation is similar to Kazakh one. The function of such kind of questions is to encourage the continuation of the conversation and reaction of the listener.

We know that some English interrogative sentences especially general question are said with the high fall tone or falling-rising tone which make the sentence sound reserved, phlegmatic and insistent. But in Kazakh language we cannot almost meet such falling tone in general question.

Some Kazakh general questions have the interrogative endings or particles between the root and the inflectional endings such as *-мы, -мі, -бы, -бі, -сы, -сі* and others.

e.g. Сен немене, тоңып қалғанбысың?

Сен немене, тоңып қалдың ба?

Some Kazakh declarative sentences may also be turned into the general question with the help of the intonation as in English. They are used by the speaker to denote the speakers readiness to continue the talk or to show his surprise and interest.

e.g. Менің көңіл-күйім жоқ.

Көңіл-күйім жоқ?

Special questions begin with the interrogative pronouns, which are followed by the auxiliary or modal verb. This is the strong rule of the English special questions. But in Kazakh special question there are also the interrogative pronouns which have not the definite place.

e.g. What is your address?

Сенің мекен-жайың қандай?

The most usual intonation contour for the special question of both English and Kazakh languages is low-fall tone. They sound serious and responsible. The special questions pronounced with rising tone mean that the speaker is sympathetically interested. Such kind of cases is met in Kazakh language very seldom.

The interrogative pronouns which indicate the special question in Kazakh language are: *қандай* (what), *қайда* (where), *қанша* (how many), *қалай* (how), *не себепті* (why) and others.

It goes without saying that the answers to the special questions are usually pronounced with the falling tone.

The structure of an alternative question is similar to the general questions in English but the question of choice consists of two sense-groups: the first of which is pronounced with the rising tone and the second with the falling tone.

e.g. Will you go to the theater or to the cinema?

In Kazakh language the alternative question has also such kind of intonation and the second sense-group is divided from the first one with the help of the word «әлде» (or).

e.g. Сіз театрға барасыз ба, әлде киноға барасыз ба?

Sometimes, especially in the oral speech the speaker omits the word «әлде» and pronounces both sense-groups with rising tone and divides them from each other with the pause. This feature may serve as the peculiarity of Kazakh intonation.

e.g. Сен оқып жатырсың ба, жазып жатырсың ба?

Disjunctive question consists of the statement and mini-question in both languages. It also has two sense-groups as the alternative question, but in comparison to the alternative one, the first part of the disjunctive question is pronounced with falling tone and the next one with the rising tone. Such kind of question is used to provoke the listener's reaction.

e.g. You will do shopping, won't you?

Сен дүкенге барып келесің, солай емес пе?

When the speaker of English language builds up the mini-question according to the first part, the speaker of Kazakh language uses the definite word combination playing the role of mini-question like «солай емес пе?», «мақұл ма?» and others.

The intonation of the disjunctive question in Kazakh and English languages has common features.

Intonation of imperative type of sentences:

The kazakh phonetician M. Karaev defines the imperative sentence in the following way: «The imperative sentence is a kind of sentence used to express the demand, the will or the order of the speaker» [3: 163].

e.g. Тезірек үйге қайт!

Such sentences sound serious, firm, reserved, often patronizing. Imperative sentence in Kazakh language is pronounced with the falling tone, but in the meaning of order or demand, such sentence has rising tone as the imperative sentence in English language.

e.g. Көрсетпе көз жасыңды!

Finish this work till tomorrow!

Summing up the results of the comparative analysis of intonation of the communicative types of sentences on the basis of English and Kazakh languages we have come to the point that there are a lot of similar features in intonation used in both languages though the specific variations of intonation characteristic of a language prevail.

Making a conclusion we may say that intonation commonly expresses the attitudes and emotions of the speaker and the latter uses it to influence the attitudes and the behavior of the listener. Without intonation a statement can often be understood, but the message is tasteless and colourless. Besides it the incorrect use of intonation can lead to embarrassing ambiguities.

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