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# THE CONCEPT OF PRONUNCIATION STYLE IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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#### **KEYWORDS**

sociolinguistic variability, phonostyle, pronunciation style, pronunciation type, invocation style

#### ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the problem of socially determined variability of speech, the relevance of which is due to the interest of linguists in the issues of sociolinguistic variability, taking into account a complex of extralinguistic factors that determine the speaker's choice of one or another pronunciation style, as well as the problem of stratification of pronunciation styles and the lack of a single generally accepted classification of phonostyles.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the main issues of modern sociolinguistics is the problem of socially determined variability of language, which is displayed at almost all levels of the language system. The relevance of the article is due to the interest of linguists in issues of sociolinguistic variability, taking into account a complex of extralinguistic factors that determine the choice of a particular pronunciation style by a communicant, as well as the problem of stratification of pronunciation styles and the lack of a single generally accepted classification.

The purpose of this article is to consider the essence of the concept of "pronunciation style" in modern sociolinguistics. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to solve the following tasks:

to define the concept of "pronunciation style";

present the existing classifications of pronunciation styles;

highlight the main features of various pronunciation styles;

consider the factors that are key in the context of phono-stylistic variability of speech.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The most important materials for studying modern sociolinguistics belong to such outstanding scientists of the first half of the 20th century as I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, E.D. Polivanov, L.P. Yakubinsky, V.M. Zhirmunsky, B.A. Larin, A. M. Selishchev, V. V. Vinogradov, G. O. Vinokur in Russia, F. Bruno,

A. Meillet, P. Lafargue, M. Cohen in France, Ch. Belgium, B. Gavranek, A. Mathesius in Czechoslovakia and others. We used the following sociolinguistic methods, such as fixation and analysis of socially conditioned speech acts;

modeling of socially determined speech activity with the help of sociolinguistic rules, questioning, interviewing, sociological experiments;

processing of their results using the apparatus of mathematical statistics, etc.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As A. D. Petrenko notes, "in all cases, the communicants make a social choice of one of the competing ways of formulating any statement". In language, from the subtlest shades of phoneme to the subtlest shades of style, there is nothing that would not be socially determined, therefore, the interpretation of variability in the functional aspect is possible only based on sociolinguistic categories. The socially determined variability of speech is determined by two aspects - stratification and situational. The stratification approach makes it possible to approach the study of speech behavior as a process of choosing options for constructing socially correct utterance.

As A.D. Schweitzer, stratification variability is a consequence of an inseparable connection with the social structure of society, and thus, is characterized by differences in language and speech means inherent in representatives of certain social strata and groups. It is generally accepted that the situational aspect of variability manifests itself, in turn, in the predominant implementation of certain linguistic and speech means, depending on the



social situation and emotional states of the speakers. Society are superimposed on the differences due to the social situation. At the same time, as U. Labov's studies have shown, models of situational variability, reflecting patterns in the distribution of competing language forms across social situations, are the same for a particular language or speech community.

Back in 1910, I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay noted that "each individual can have several individual "languages", which differ, among other things, from the pronunciation-acoustic point of view: the language of everyday life, the language of solemnity, the language of a church sermon or a university department, etc. (in accordance with the social position of the individual). At different moments of life, we use a different language, depending on different mental states, on the time of year and day, age, on previous speech skills and new acquisitions".

According to R. I. Avanesov, the language exists in many of its varieties: "... the language of an officer, engineer, scientist, worker has its own characteristics; this is due, of course, to objective reality - the differences in their real, practical life experience.

Moreover, the language of each of them is not the same depending on whether it refers to one person or to many (for example, when speaking at a meeting), and when referring to one person, depending on who this person is - a child or an adult, from among relatives or friends, or an outsider, an unfamiliar person, and also depending on where the conversation takes place, for example, in the family circle or in a public organization .

Thus, the choice by speakers of specific language and speech means from a number of synonymous possibilities is carried out due to belonging to certain social and professional groups, the number of communicants, age. An important factor is the relationship between the speakers (official, unofficial, friendly, related, neutral) and the speech situation as a whole. At the same time, the content of the speech is also of great importance: an everyday dialogue, a speech at a production meeting, a scientific lecture, a lyric poem - all this is linguistically formatted very differently. The combination of all the above features constitutes the corresponding styles of language and speech.

According to V.V. Vinogradov, "In the field of art history, literary criticism and linguistics, it is difficult to find a term more ambiguous and contradictory - and the corresponding concept is more shaky and subjectively vague than the term style and the concept of style. The study of language, from whatever side it seeks to understand this complex phenomenon, has also come to realize the importance and even the need to distinguish between styles of language, as well as styles of speech or socio-speech styles. The subject of the study of linguistic stylistics is, according to

V.V. Vinogradov, "all aspects of the language - its grammar, vocabulary, phraseology and sound system".

In turn, the problem of phonetic differentiation of sounding speech is reflected in the theory of pronunciation styles, based on the point of view according to which pronunciation variability is associated with phonetic styles. In the process of communication, multiple features of the variability of phonostylistic phenomena are manifested, associated with the



speaker's choice of one or another pronunciation style, which, in turn, is due to such non-linguistic factors of a socio-psychological nature as the territorial origin of the communicant (dialect), belonging to a particular social group (sociolect), generation (annolect), gender (sexolect), idiolect originality of speech realizations at the phonetic level, as well as the conditions of various communicative situations of communication.

Depending on the implementation conditions, the same word can be pronounced differently.

A.D. Petrenko believes that each social type of people has its own set of pronunciation styles, which depends on a number of circumstances. Z. V. Ganiev says that when communicating socially different communicants with a different set of pronunciation styles, it becomes necessary to overcome a certain barrier to achieve "mental assimilation".

In the context of the study of oral speech communication, it is necessary to dwell on the concept of "pronunciation style", for which linguists use various terms: "phonetic style", "pronunciation type", "pronunciation style", "pronunciation way", "phonostyle", "contextual style", "tonality". According to O. A. Prokhvatilova, the pronunciation style is understood in modern phono-stylistics as a complex of sound (segment) and intonation (super-segment) means, the selection and specificity of which are determined by the interaction of a number of extralinguistic factors.

As is known, L.V. Shcherba singled out two types of pronunciation - full and colloquial, the cardinal polarity of which is to oppose the degree of speech production tempo, which directly determines the different degree of clarity and distinctness of the speaker's articulation. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that L.V. Shcherba himself emphasized the possible infinite number of transitional steps from one style to another. Consequently, this classification is not exhaustive, but, on the contrary, very abstract, since these pronunciation styles are generalized concepts, and each of them contains several options, and the sounding speech is diverse and does not always fit into a certain framework. This point of view was confirmed by the observations of G.O. Vinokur that even an exemplary pronunciation cannot always be absolutely the same. The topic, this or that degree of the emotional state of the speaker - all this can create a variety of options in exemplary pronunciation.

"Hence, there is a need to consider at least two variants of exemplary pronunciation - more strict and less strict".

Based on the criteria of the speech situation (monologue-dialogue, target setting of speech), L.L. Bulanin distinguishes three phonostyles: full (used in monologue public speech), neutral (inherent in calm monologue speech with a business orientation) and colloquial (used in dialogical speech and a relaxed situation of communication). M.V. Panov takes the neutral style as the basis for his classification of pronunciation styles, which is "the main fabric of the work, on which patterns of artistically justified deviations from the standard appear". Strict style most sharply differs from neutral and free (conversational style). Within the framework of the functional approach to the definition of the concept of phonetic style, S. M. Gayduchik, based on the spheres of communication, identifies five



genre-situational varieties as five styles of pronunciation - solemn, official business, scientific business, everyday and laid-back. The author believes that pronunciation styles are "a phonetic substance of different forms of speech adapted to different conditions of the social order and to different purposes of communication. This is a whole complex of phonetic means, characteristic of speech utterances in a given situation and in a certain area of communication, that is, style includes all the properties of acoustic and perceived features.

R. I. Avanesov distinguishes high (stylistically colored), neutral (basic, stylistically uncolored) and colloquial (stylistically colored) styles, noting an additional colloquial pronunciation style that is outside the literary language. G. Meinhold offers a detailed version of the classification of L. V. Shcherba, distinguishing, depending on the sphere of communication and the situational factor, high and colloquial styles, which, in turn, are divided into transitional steps from one style to another, and called by the author himself "formal steps of pronunciation". Thus, a high style of pronunciation is typical for the following areas of communication:

recitation of poetry; solemn speech; a scientific report in front of a large audience; a speech on the radio.

Conversational style can be traced in such social situations and communication conditions as:

a calm business conversation; a discussion in which many people take part; a report to a small audience that does not require much effort;

casual conversation.

G. Meinhold refers to the main differences between pronunciation styles the degree of clarity and clarity of pronunciation, which are determined by the informative load of the elements of the speech chain and the pace of speech production, which leads to the appearance, along with complete, reduced forms. In a colloquial style, unstressed words are pronounced quickly, merge, reducing as much as possible. At the same time, a certain minimum of sounds and their combinations are preserved in speech, which carry basic information in the phrase. Rapid pronunciation of redundant segments of speech improves the quality of understanding and focuses the listener's attention on informatively loaded parts of the speech chain. Because of this, the pronunciation of vowels, consonants and their combinations cannot be equally thorough in all positions, which would clearly contradict speech reality . W. Labov, in turn, distinguishes between "careful speech style" and "casual speech style", which he integrates into the concept of "contextual style", determined by a specific social situation .

The "careful speech style" is implemented in the context of an official setting of formal communication and is distinguished by a focus on the literary norm, while the "easy speech style" is used in informal everyday communication situations. V. Karp distinguishes the following phonostyles:

-high (used in the official communication of important information, reading poetic works, and characterized by an extremely distinct articulation of sounds),



- -neutral (a style of everyday speech, emotionally uncolored, characterized by an average tempo of speech and a slight loss of sounds),
- -colloquial (representing lively, emotional, informal and relaxed speech, the result of which is the "reduction" of words as a result of the loss of sounds) and
- -uncolloquial (remaining outside the literary language, which is usually not used by a literate person).
- O. A. Prokhvatilova distinguishes such pronunciation styles: neutral, business, advertising, information and journalistic, religious and preaching, declamatory and colloquial.

## **CONCLUSION**

Having presented these approaches to the consideration of the problem of socially determined variability of language and speech and the classification of phonostyles, we can conclude that, despite the different number of pronunciation styles identified by linguists and the absence of a single generally accepted classification, all the above classifications provide for the conditionality of phonetic variability at the segmental and prosodic levels. Extralinguistic factors of a socio-psychological nature, such as the social status of the speakers, age, gender, relationships between communicants, the sphere of communication, speech situation, communication goals, the nature of the content, the mood and emotional state of the communicants.

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