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Functions of Intonation

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

(كِتَابُ فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ)
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Dedication

We would like to dedicate this work to our parents, who are the reason of what we become today, and for a debt we can never repay.

Acknowledgment

It is the will of our Merciful God to surround us with supportive people. We are grateful to our supervisor Asst.Prof.Iman Khadhair Al–Abodi for her comments and guidance.

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Abstract

Intonation is the quality of language that features each rhythm and melody and is produced by tonal height and depth alongside stress.

This paper provides information about intonation and its functions.

The research paper is divided into two sections, the first section includes the definition of intonation, the second section includes the functions of intonation, the discourse function, the grammatical function, the accentual perform, the psychological perform, the fact perform.

Intonation is the rise and fall of the pitch in speaking, there are six functions of intonation, the rising and falling of the pitch change the meaning of the sentence.

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1.1. Definition of Intonation

There are at least two definitions for intonation, Allen says that "intonation may be a quality of language that features each rhythm and melody" and is "produced by tonal height and depth alongside stress, volume and ranging lengths of pause". during this definition, intonation is the rise and fall of the pitch in speaking. The broad read of intonation is widespread, as intonation is commonly accustomed talk over with the approach somebody says one thing. In English, the approach one thing is claimed includes not solely pitch movement however additionally length, intensity, and a bunch of different factors, like voice quality. (1971: 74)

Intonation during this definition involves the uses of pitch that operate at the discourse level and may be outlined in terms of distinct linguistic classes (e.g., syllables that area unit accented vs. people who aren't accented, rising vs. falling final pitch. (1996 : 6)

The slim definition is followed during this article, and discussion is restricted to two necessary parts of intonation delineated in virtually all textbooks: (a) the first accent or sentence stress and (b) final pitch movement during a phrase or sentence. the primary development is delineated by the accent on the word see in Example one, during which

the verb is a lot of noticeable, or salient, than all different words within the sentence. (Gussenhoven, 2004 : 92)

Sentence stress will amendment once the context changes, either in words, as in Example two, or through Associate in Nursing understood scenario. I decision this use of intonation nuclear stress and represent it in capital letters. The second international development is what I decision the ultimate intonation, or intonation, of a sentence. In Example three, this can be shown as falling pitch (or rising-falling pitch, because it is typically called), two during which the pitch rises at the accented syllable before falling to a comparatively low frequency. additionally to falling final intonation, sentences could have a final pitch movement that's rising, falling-rising, or one in all many different patterns, betting on the context and the speaker's intentions. (Borden , 1984 : 18)

The style or melody degree change in link speech , especially the pitch mode of sentence or speaker of different language.

The which means of Associate in Nursing English vocalization, i.e. the data it conveys to a perceiver, derives not solely from its dynamical sound pattern and therefore the contrastive, accentual prominences already noted, however additionally from associated. variations of pitch. Such rises and falls in pitch level, or patterns of intonation, have two main functions (Borden,1984: 23)

In thus far as a perceiver interprets properly those components of Associate in Nursing vocalization -upon that the speaker desires to concentrate attention, or is conscious of the speaker's angle to him, or makes judgments upon the temperament of the speaker, the pattern of intonation used could also be aforementioned to represent a linguistic system which- encompasses a communicative operate at intervals a specific community. .There looks little question that intonation in its accentual operate and therein non-accentual operate involved with the excellence of sentence sorts, will represent a linguistic reality of this kind: Since, however, we tend to typically misinterpret the emotional angle as sent by intonation, it should be aforementioned that non-accentual intonation patterns of this type area unit less utterly systematized, or that such linguistic systems area unit a lot of varied and applicable to smaller communities (regional or social) than synchronic linguistics systems, in order that a faulty judgment of emotional attitudes sent by intonation cues could derive from Associate in Nursing interpretation of those cues in terms of our own, different, intonation usage in showing such attitudes (cf. the interpretative changes required on the synchronic linguistics level between- speakers of 2 differing types of English. (Ladd, D. R. & Silverman, K. , 1984 : 72)

1.2. The Functions of Intonation

Native speakers of English exploit intonation patterns in several delicate ways in which aren't obvious initially sight. If you speak English as a second or foreign language, these uses of intonation could don't have any parallel in your mother tongue. this may result in a breakdown

in communication once a talker is interacting with a non-native speaker. during a informal scenario, many an non-native speaker could fail to grasp some or all of that a part of the native speaker's message that's sent by intonation patterns. The talker, unaware each of his or her own use of intonation and of the non-native's failure to select abreast of it, wrong assumes that the message has been totally understood. Later, it becomes evident that the message has not been totally understood, and neither participant within the language is aware of why it should otherwise be the case that English makes a lot of elaborate use of intonation to signal which means than do most different languages. this can be an extra reason why it shouldn't be neglected by learners and academics of English as a remote language. (Ibid : 76)

What, then, area unit the functions of English intonation? we will acknowledge many.

- The attitudinal operate. To complete our behaves and emotions - to pin point shock or surprise, pleasure or anger, interest or tedium, seriousness or wittiness, and lots of others is the main role played by intonation we tend to try this by tone.

The grammatical operate. Intonation helps determine grammatical structures in speech, rather as punctuation will in writing. we tend to use intonation to mark the start and finish of grammatical units like clause and sentence (the demarcate function). we tend to try this by key. we tend to additionally use intonation to tell apart clause sorts, like question vs. statement, and to clear up numerous grammatically ambiguous structures (the syntactical function). we tend to try this chiefly by tone.

The focusing (also known as accentual or informational) perform. Intonation helps to point out what data in AN auditory communication is new and what's already proverbial. we tend to use it to bring some elements of the message into focus, and

leave different elements out of focus; to stress or highlight some elements and not others. we tend to do that by tonus and by the position of different accents. this is often one amongst the foremost necessary functions of English intonation, and maybe the perform most promptly tutored within the EFL schoolroom. we tend to mix accentuation with the selection of tone to gift some longer stretches of the message as constituting the foreground of the image we tend to paint, whereas going different stretches as background. These area unit pragmatic functions. (Gussenhoven, 2004 : 112)

3- The discourse (or cohesive) perform. Intonation signals however sequences of clauses and sentences go along in spoken discourse, to distinction or to cohere. It functions just like the division of transcription into sentences and paragraphs. It permits North American nation to signal whether or not or not we've come back to the tip of the purpose we tend to area unit making; whether or not we wish to stay talking or area unit able to provide another speaker a flip (Abbelin , 2005 : 53).

4-The psychological perform. Intonation helps North American nation organize speech into units that area unit straightforward to understand, learn and perform. we will all repeat AN discretional string of 3, four or 5 numbers, however not a string of unless we tend to split them into 2 units of 5. this is often why we want key.

5-The fact perform. even as with different pronunciation options, intonation could act as a marker of private or social identity. What makes mothers sound like mothers, lovers sound like lovers, lawyers sound like lawyers, clergymen sound like clergymen, newsreaders sound like newsreaders, officers sound like officials? part, their characteristic intonation.

Intonation could serve several linguistic and paralinguistic functions in verbal communication , starting from the marking of sentence modality to the expression of emotional and attitudinal nuances. it's necessary to spot however they're expressed within the learner's language, in order that variations between the native and target languages area unit known. it's notably necessary to signifies that a lot of aspects of knowledge structure and indirect speech acts area unit expressed otherwise across languages. creating learners conscious of the existence of those functions won't solely facilitate them learn to precise them, however also will facilitate them to interpret what they hear during a lot of analytic approach, therefore reducing the danger of attributing sudden intonation patterns as (solely) a operate of the angle or spirit of the speaker we've seen that intonation analysis involves categorical choices regarding whether or not there's stress or accent, and, if there's Associate in Nursing accent, which sort of emphasis it's. It additionally involves choices regarding whether or not a boundary is gift, and if therefore that pitch movement or level accustomed mark it. (Borden , 1984 : 31)

There also are several gradient aspects to intonation, like variation in pitch height or within the precise form of the contour (equivalent to phoneme variation within the segmental domain).

Accentual Intonation amendments area unit the foremost economical suggests that of rendering distinguished for a perceiver those components of Associate in Nursing vocalization on that the speaker desires to concentrate attention; pitch change is particularly important as a cue for signaling the word or words carrying primary (nuclear) accent. It ought to be remembered, however, that the accentual pattern of a response is commonly mostly conditioned by constraints imposed by the context .

1.2.1. The form of English Intonation

Just because the linguistic scientist focuses on the sentence as the key unit of grammatical analysis, the linguistic scientist focuses on the TONE UNIT (also known as the phonologic PHRASE) because the most important domain in terms of that intonation contours reflective the pitch of utterances area unit assigned . (Gimson , 1970 : 49)

The nucleus is that the central part in a very tone unit. It contains the language unit in AN auditory communication that undergoes important pitch movement - and is consequently additional outstanding than the remainder. That language unit is that the NUCLEUS or TONIC language unit. The tonic language unit is generally preceded by a

HEAD. the top is that the a part of the tone unit extending from the primary stressed language unit to the language unit now preceding the tonic language unit. Optionally, a head may be preceded by a PRE-HEAD. This consists of any light language units that occur ahead of the primary stressed syllable of the top. Again, optionally, a tonic language unit may be followed by a TAIL. The tail contains any language units (which could or might not be stressed) following the tonic syllable.

He can I phone you once all the youngsters area unit back.

Normally pitch is low within the pre-head, additional or less level high within the head and falling on the tonic; within the tail the pitch pattern established on the tonic is just continued.

The most common direction of pitch movement-on the tonic is downward. oftentimes pitch moves down on the tonic language unit and remains down till the tip of the auditory communication- Pitch tends to be abundant lower at the tip of an utterance than it's at the start. FALLING INTONATION, that is exemplified by [10.301, is that the unmarked intonation in English. (Gimson , 1970 : 56)

'James James Thurber was born in zero bucket along.

The widespread tendency to drop pitch because the finish of AN auditory communication approaches may need a physiological explanation. Possibly, because the speaker bit by bit runs out of breath, there's less and fewer air to cause the vibration of the vocal cords and consequently they vibrate additional sluggishly and therefore the pitch of the auditory communication goes down. (At identical time, in some languages like Bantoid language, the intensity of the signal conjointly declines, in order that the tip of the auditory communication is auditory less salient than the start. (Wells, J. C. , 2006 : 87)

It is affordable to raise what the functions of intonation area unit. will pitch fluctuation serve any linguistic purpose? Some answers to the present question area unit made public below.

1.2.2. Accentuation perform

(Wells, J. C. , 2006 : 110) Word stress interacts with intonation. the words in a sentence encompasses a language unit that stands out higher than the remainder. this is often the language unit that has stress - conjointly known as TONIC STRESS. Such a language unit is usually brought up because the TONIC language unit. In unmarked cases, tonic stress goes on the language unit that carries primary stress within the last lexical item of the tone unit. Such a lexical item is usually a noun, AN adjective or a verb. The tonic language unit is underlined within the examples below:

- they're operating.
- Joan has seen him.

1.2.3. Intonation and Illocutionary Force

The choice of intonation isn't entirely free. In a very language like English, sure ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS (acts of speaking) like creating statements and asking queries, are unit usually performed exploitation sure intonation patterns. A given illocutionary act could also be performed while not exploitation the intonation indicated here. However, all the same, sure intonation patterns are unit way more possible to be wont to perform sure illocutionary acts than others. (Gimson, 1970 : 62)

The tone unit sort with level head and a falling nucleus ('h' n), that is that the just one introduced to this point, is unmarked. It's the intonation that's assigned once there's no smart reason for doing otherwise. For instance, it's unremarkably employed in statements, in imperatives and in who queries (i.e. queries starting with the words why, where, when, what, which etc.). You'll be able to verify this by reading the sentences below in a very neutral manner and observant the intonation contour that you use:

- Statements: 'h' n
- 'Mary lives in Lancaster.
- 'The outlets area unit ' closed.
- WH questions: 'h" n
- 'When did mother 'go there?

- What is your ' name?
- Imperatives: ' h ' n
- Just 'eat up your 'dinner!
- 'Sit!

Besides falling intonation, another common (but somewhat marked) sort is that the LOW RISE ('h,n) wherever the top is level and therefore the nucleus rises slightly. This pattern is usually found in YES/NO. queries wherever the speaker queries AN item and expects easy confirmation or denial:

I will mention only one additional tone unit sort, HIGH RISE (' 'N). This encompasses a level head and a high rising nucleus. the top could also be optionally omitted. this is often common in elliptical queries like:

Optionally, the pitch of queries could also be raised usually in order that the higher vary of the speaker's voice is used..

1.2.4. The Grammatical Function of Intonation

The grammatical function of intonation refers to the syntactic part played by word or phrase in the context of a specific clause or sentence, now and then called essentially function.

In English , grammatical function of intonation is essentially decided by a word's position in a sentence , not by inflection (or word endings).

This function can be used to identify the grammatical structure; it does the same thing that punctuation does in writing, it can marks where a sentence begins and where it ends , although the grammatical function of intonation is difficult in teaching but it is so important because it is used in daily communication .

"many sentences which are potentially ambiguous in their spoken form can be identified by intonation" (katamba,1989:244)

The grammatical function of intonation is used in ambiguous sentences in their written form and this ambiguity can be cleared by using intonation

For example:

/

1-a- Those who ran [quickly] won a medal

(a medal was quickly won by those who ran)

／
b- Those who ran quickly [won] a medal

(a medal was won by those who ran quickly)

Thompson [1995], (Cauldwell and Hewings [1996] and Roach [2000] discuss the rule that yes/no questions end with a rising tone whereas wh questions end with a falling tone thus, the sentence can be changed from a statement into a question just by changing the tone , the falling tone can form a statement while the rising tone can turn the statement sentence into a yes/no question :

＼
2-a- He's not there (statement)

／
b- He's not there ? (question)

＼
3-a- He passed the exam (statement)

／
b- He passed the exam ? (question)

Yes/no questions end with a rising tone while wh questions end with a falling tone :

／
4- Shall we go tomorrow

＼
5- Where shall we go tomorrow?

The common rule state that statement sentences , commands and wh questions all have a falling intonation at the end, on the other hand , yes/no questions have a rising tone

These can be illustrated in the following :

utterance type	default pattern	other patterns / other meaning
STATEMENTS	fall	(1) rise – to add non-finality or questioning (2) rise-fall – to add non-finality with an implication of an additional but unspoken message
COMMANDS	fall	rise – to turn command into request
WH-QUESTIONS	fall	rise – to add warmth and interest
YES / NO QUESTIONS	rise	fall – to turn questions into exclamations

(Collins & Mees 2003: 129)

1.2. 5. The Attitudinal Function of Intonation

The attitudinal function of intonation is the intonation that serves to express the speaker's attitudes and emotions , it defines the speaker's attitude and the message that he intends to convey.

The speaker's attitude as stated by (Roach :1991) is expressed by several tones and gestures, and it can also be identified by face expressions.

The attitudinal function of intonation is an indicator of the speakers' behavior because it helps them to express their feelings towards people in any situation

"when the speaker say something it can has more than one meaning , one can mean different things with the same word by modulating the intonation utterances may perform different illocutionary acts depending on the speaker's attitude as it is revealed through intonation , an utterance like: sit down or come back can be a command , a polite invitation or threat " (Gibson:246)

One of the most important purposes of the function is to enable the speakers to express their emotions and feelings whether it was joy , sadness , boredom and so forth , and that is important in order to make a successful communication

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6- You can't have that it's for me. (angry)

✓

7- Oh, please (unsatisfied)

There is also what is called prosody which is an aspect that deals with the spoken language rather than written language," important role of prosody is to convey the speaker's mood , relationship with the reader and other attitudinal matters " (Densen 199 :1)

Further, Prosody involves facial expressions , gestures and body movements which they all can perform a specific attitude, " we can all express emotions with adjectives happy , angry , sad , afraid , surprised , tired and so on but often we express the emotions with prosody " (abbelin , 2005 : 10) , for example (come here, can be used in different circumstances when the voice quality is changed , it can be a command or a request .

According to (Kelly ,2000) " the attitudinal function of intonation is extremely difficult in teaching because it's hard to present it in a way that helps the learners to use it to help them with their production . however, teachers can do some useful work when relating intonation to attitude in the classroom in the same way that it is used with grammar and intonation ".

Kelly also suggests that the teachers should teach their students to express their feelings and attitudes by using the attitudinal function of intonation on lexical phrases for example : " How are you ?" , " Are you okay?" which are used in normal conversations.(Ibid)

Four types are used in this function as follow:

1- rising tone : this means that the pitch rises , that happens in yes/no questions.

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8- Do you like coffee ?

and when there's a doubt in the sentence

/

9- You like fruit don't you ?

2-falling tone: It means that the pitch drops down and that happens in statements

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10-Nice to meet you (statement)

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11-Write your name here (Wh questions)

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12-whose pen is this ? (Wh questions)

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13-what a big mouse! (Exclamation)

3- rise-fall : It means that the pitch rises then drops and this happens in lists

/ / / \

14-We've got chocolate , milk , floor and oil.

4-fall-rise tone : It simply means that the pitch drops down then rises , it usually happens in the same word.



15-Did he say that it's allowed ? (Yes/no question)

1.2. 6. The Discourse Function of Intonation

The discourse function of intonation is the function that analyzes sentences' appearance in the bigger context.

The discourse or cohesive function of intonation signals how groupings of clauses and sentences go together in spoken language , it enables others to signal whether or not one reached to the conclusion of the sentence , whether one needs to keep talking or he's prepared to allow another speaker a turn.

Since 1970's the discourse function of intonation ended up being the focus of the linguistics' research . thus, phonologists have exchanged their interest from the simple pitch forms to the discourse function of intonation.

Discourse function has it's beginnings in the formal description of Halliday but was developed into a total hypothesis by Brazil (Coulthard 1985), the hypothesis is attractive since it's straightforward and has a powerful explanatory force .

One of the main uses of this function of intonation is to set the listener's focus on the main idea of the sentence , the tonic stress is placed on the most important word in the sentence, For example :

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16-She went to Scotland

Another use of the discourse function of intonation is the regulation of conversational behavior with two speakers or more , which is important to ask for a specific type of response or turn taking in the beginning or the ending of speech , speakers use different ways to indicate to the other speaker that they have finished speaking.

By using the discourse function of intonation one can know what information is new and what information is given, For example:

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17-Since the last time we met when we had that huge

/

dinner I've been on a diet .

The first two tone words are something that is already known to the listener while the last one presents a new information .

The falling intonation indicates new information but the rising tone indicates the given or shared information.

This can be further illustrated by the following examples :

18- I have to take the dog for a walk

19- I have to take the dog to the vet

20- She went to Scotland

21- They are coming on Thursday

Conclusion

Intonation is rising and falling of the tone in speaking, it has six functions, the grammatical function which refers to the syntactic part played by word or phrase in the context of a specific clause or sentence,. the attitudinal function is the intonation that serves to express the speaker's attitudes and emotions. Discourse function intonation is the function that analyzes sentences' appearance in the bigger context, it can tell which part of the sentence is given and which is new, the focusing (also known as accentual or informational) perform Intonation helps to point out what data in AN auditory communication is new and what's already proverbial, the psychological perform Intonation helps North American nation organize speech into units that area unit straightforward to understand, learn and perform, the fact perform which acts as a marker of private or social identity.

the linguistic scientist focuses on the Tone unit because the most important domain in terms of that intonation , the choice of intonation isn't entirely free in English

Illocutionary acts (acts of speaking) like creating statements and asking queries, area unit usually performed exploitation sure intonation patterns.

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