

## **INTONATION IN ENGLISH PHONETICS**

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role of intonation in the phonetics of the English language, its importance and functions in speech. Intonation is considered as an important means of expressing meaning in speech, and with its help, the possibility of expressing various communicative goals of speech - reporting, asking a question, commanding or expressing emotional relationships is highlighted. Also, the types of intonation in English, their structure and role in the pronunciation process are scientifically substantiated. The article also considers the methodology for teaching intonation and its importance in the development of students' speech activity.

**Keywords:** intonation, phonetics, English language, speech tone, pronunciation, prosody, communicative functions, stress, speech rhythm, speech intonation, phonetic units

## **INGLIZ FONETIKASIDA INTONATSIYA**

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**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur maqolada ingliz tili fonetikasida intonatsiyaning o'rni, uning nutqdagi ahamiyati va funksiyalari tahlil qilinadi. Intonatsiya nutqning ma'no ifodalashdagi muhim vositasi sifatida qaralib, uning yordamida gapning turli kommunikativ maqsadlari – xabar berish, savol berish, buyruq yoki hissiy munosabatlarni ifodalash imkoniyati yoritiladi. Shuningdek, ingliz tilida intonatsiya turlari, ularning strukturasi hamda talaffuz jarayonidagi roli ilmiy jihatdan asoslab

beriladi. Maqolada intonatsiyani o'rgatish metodikasi va o'quvchilarning nutq faoliyatini rivojlantirishdagi ahamiyati ham ko'rib chiqiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** intonatsiya, fonetika, ingliz tili, nutq ohangi, talaffuz, prosodiya, kommunikativ funksiyalar, urg'u, nutq ritmi, gap intonatsiyasi, fonetik birliklar

## **ИНТОНАЦИЯ В АНГЛИЙСКОЙ ФОНЕТИКЕ**

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**Аннотация:** В данной статье анализируется роль интонации в фонетике английского языка, её значение и функции в речи. Интонация рассматривается как важное средство выражения смысла в речи, и с её помощью освещается возможность выражения различных коммуникативных целей речи — сообщения, задавания вопросов, командования или выражения эмоциональных отношений. Также научно обоснованы типы интонации в английском языке, их структура и роль в процессе произношения. В статье также рассматривается методика обучения интонации и её значение в развитии речевой деятельности учащихся.

**Ключевые слова:** интонация, фонетика, английский язык, тон речи, произношение, просодия, коммуникативные функции, ударение, ритм речи, речевая интонация, фонетические единицы

### **Introduction.**

The current practice of teaching foreign languages, in particular English, shows that the failure to fully comply with phonetic norms in speech seriously affects the effectiveness of communication. In particular, not only the correct pronunciation of sounds, but also the correct use of suprasegmental units of speech - intonation, stress and rhythm - is of great importance. Intonation is one of the main phonetic means that determines the content of speech, enriches it emotionally and logically.

Therefore, as a result of non-observance of intonation, speech may be incomprehensible or misinterpreted.

Practical observations show that many students begin to form oral speech, having sufficiently mastered the grammatical structure of the English language and having a certain vocabulary. However, when they are convinced that the general meaning is understood by the interlocutor during the communication process, they do not pay enough attention to phonetic aspects, especially intonation norms. As a result, the naturalness of speech is violated, the communicative purpose of the sentence is not clearly expressed, and in some cases the idea is conveyed incorrectly. For example, sentences with the same grammatical form in English can be interpreted as a question, affirmation or expression of surprise through different intonation. It is known that language is the most important means of communication between people and develops inextricably linked with the development of society. The phonetic system of the language, as one of its main components, plays an important role in the formation of speech. The phonetic system includes not only individual sounds, but also their interrelationship, melodiousness and rhythmic organization in the speech process. In particular, intonation is an important tool in expressing the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic aspects of speech. It allows you to express the completion or continuation of a sentence, the speaker's attitude, emotional state, and communicative intention.

From this point of view, the study of intonation in English phonetics is relevant not only theoretically, but also practically. The correct mastery of intonation serves as an important factor in the development of students' listening and speaking skills. In addition, it ensures the naturalness of speech and directly affects the formation of communicative competence.

Therefore, in the process of learning a foreign language, students should not be limited to the correct pronunciation of individual phonemes, but also deeply master the melodic aspect of speech - intonation. This requires conscious control of the activity of the speech organs, such phonetic characteristics as the pitch, strength, and

duration of the voice. As a result, learners' speech becomes clear, fluent, and understandable, increasing their chances of achieving effective communication.

### **Literature analysis**

The issue of intonation in English phonetics has been widely studied by many linguists, and its functional and communicative significance in speech has been explained on the basis of various scientific approaches. In particular, such scientists as D. Jones, R. Kingdon, M. Halliday, J. O'Connor and G. Arnold have developed the theoretical foundations of English intonation.

D. Jones, having systematically studied English phonetics, interprets intonation as an integral part of speech and considers it inextricably linked with tone, stress and rhythm. In his opinion, intonation is an important phonetic tool that determines the meaning of a sentence.

R. Kingdon, on the other hand, pays special attention to the main intonation models in English and classifies them according to their use in speech. He indicates intonation as the main tool in determining the communicative type of a sentence (for example, indicative, interrogative, imperative sentences).

In the functional approach proposed by M. Halliday, intonation is interpreted as part of the communicative system of the language. He divides intonation into three main components: tonality, tonicity and tone. This approach shows that intonation has not only phonetic, but also semantic and pragmatic significance.

J. O'Connor and G. Arnold in their studies focused on the practical aspect of English intonation and analyzed the real use of various intonation patterns in speech. Their work serves as an important methodological basis for teaching intonation, especially for English language learners.

In modern studies, intonation is considered an important component of communicative competence. In particular, it is emphasized that teaching intonation in the methodology of teaching a foreign language is directly related to the development of listening comprehension and oral speech. Therefore, today the need to teach intonation based on an integrative approach is increasing.

### **Research methodology**

This study used a number of scientific methods to determine the role of intonation in English phonetics and the effectiveness of its teaching.

First, based on the method of theoretical analysis, the existing scientific literature on intonation in English was studied and summarized. Through this method, the main components, functions, and communicative significance of intonation were identified.

Second, the observation method was used to analyze the level of use of intonation in the speech of students learning English. As a result, it was found that many students, although they construct grammatically correct sentences, make intonation errors.

Third, through the experimental method, two groups of students were taught lessons based on different approaches. While the traditional method (only focusing on pronunciation) was used in the first group, intonation was taught through special exercises (dialogues, audio materials, repetition exercises). The results of the experiment showed that the accuracy and intelligibility of speech significantly increased in the group where special attention was paid to intonation.

Fourth, using the comparative method, intonation errors and correct options in students' speech were compared. For example, the expression of the meaning of a statement or question through the pronunciation of the sentence "You are coming." with different intonations was analyzed.

Also, the methods of phonetic analysis and working with audio materials were used in the research process. Through this, the elements of tone, stress and rhythm in students' speech were studied in depth.

As a result, it was scientifically substantiated that systematic and goal-oriented teaching of intonation is an important factor in the development of students' communicative competence.

### **Results and theory.**

Intonation in English is manifested not only as a phonetic phenomenon, but also as a complex phenomenon combining semantic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic layers of the language system. It performs many functions in the speech process, such as

clarifying the grammatical structure of the sentence, separating important parts of information, expressing the communicative intention of the speaker, and influencing the listener. In this regard, intonation is one of the most important suprasegmental units of English phonetics and plays a decisive role in ensuring the content clarity of speech. Through intonation, it is determined whether the sentence is completed or in progress, whether it is a statement, interrogative or command, and at the same time the emotional coloring of the speech is determined. If intonation is used incorrectly, even a grammatically correct sentence can be misunderstood by the listener, which leads to interruptions in the communicative process. Theoretically, intonation consists of several interrelated elements, among which tone, stress, rhythm and pause occupy a special place. The combination of these components ensures the naturalness and logical consistency of speech. The most common intonation patterns in English are falling, rising, fall-rise and rise-fall tones, which are used to express various communicative meanings. For example, a simple statement is expressed with a falling tone, while a rising tone usually indicates a question or uncertainty. At the same time, complex tone types serve to express subtle pragmatic meanings, such as the speaker's internal attitude, suspicion or caution. This shows that intonation is not only a phonetic tool, but also a mechanism for creating content.

The semantic aspect of intonation is especially evident in the distribution of information. In speech, new and important information is usually highlighted by tonic stress, which draws the listener's attention to the necessary point. In sentences of the same grammatical form, the stress on different words leads to a significant change in content. This confirms the role of intonation in determining the semantic center within the sentence. In addition, intonation also determines the pragmatic side of speech, that is, it can provide information about the speaker's mood, emotional state, attitude and even social status. For example, the same sentence, when spoken in different tones, can mean different meanings, such as an order, a request, sarcasm or surprise. This feature is especially important in the process of intercultural communication, since incorrect intonation can lead to incorrect pragmatic interpretation.

Observations of the speech of students learning English during the research showed that, although most of them can construct grammatically correct sentences, they have difficulties in using intonation correctly. In particular, the inability to distinguish tone in imperative and interrogative sentences, incorrect placement of tonic stress, and the use of monotonous tone in speech are widespread. This reduces the naturalness of speech and complicates its perception for the listener. During the conducted experimental sessions, it was observed that, along with the traditional approach to teaching intonation, modern methods - working with audio materials, repetition exercises, practicing on the basis of dialogues, and using role-playing games - yielded effective results. Through these methods, students learned not only to hear and distinguish intonation, but also to use it in practical speech.

The results of the experiment showed that special classes focused on intonation significantly increase the fluency, naturalness and expressiveness of students' speech. Their listening comprehension skills improve, the emotional coloring of speech is enriched, and most importantly, communicative accuracy is ensured. This proves that teaching intonation is not only a phonetic skill, but also an important component of general communicative competence. Also, deep mastery of intonation serves to develop speech culture, since the correct tone also increases the aesthetic impact of speech.

In general, intonation in English is one of the main tools that ensure the semantic accuracy, emotional richness and communicative effectiveness of speech, and its deep and systematic study is an indispensable condition for perfect mastery of a foreign language. Therefore, it is necessary to pay special attention to intonation in the process of teaching English, strengthening it through practical exercises along with theoretical knowledge.

These results indicate the need to consider intonation in teaching English not as a separate component, but as an integral part of speech activity. Because in the real communicative process, intonation works together with grammatical and lexical means and fully reveals their content. Therefore, the process of teaching intonation

should be organized on the basis of an integrative approach, that is, pronunciation, listening comprehension and oral speech skills should be developed together.

Modern linguodidactic approaches emphasize that for effective teaching of intonation, theoretical explanations alone are not enough, but it is important to strengthen it through practical activities. In particular, the use of authentic audio and video materials, listening to natural speech samples and their repetition form intonational sensitivity in learners. In this process, the mechanisms of hearing and imitation play an important role, since intonation is mastered more through practical experience.

In addition, the use of exercises based on communicative situations in teaching intonation gives high efficiency. For example, through dialogues, role-playing and problem situations, students have the opportunity to use various intonation patterns in real communication situations. This helps to free their speech from artificiality and express it naturally and freely. At the same time, such an approach reduces students' psychological barriers and involves them in the active speech process. Another important aspect of teaching intonation is ensuring an individual approach. Since each student has different phonetic abilities, hearing levels and language acquisition speed, it is important to choose methods and exercises that are suitable for them. In particular, visual materials (intonation graphs, drawings) may be more effective for some students, while exercises based on hearing and repetition may be more effective for others.

The role of the teacher in the process of working on intonation is also important. The teacher should not only show examples of correct intonation, but also identify errors in students' speech and give individual advice on correcting them. This, along with improving the quality of the learning process, also forms a critical approach of students to their own speech.

Based on the results of the study, it can be said that systematic and step-by-step teaching of intonation is an important factor in developing the general language competence of students. In particular, paying attention to intonation from the initial stage makes it easier to improve speech at later stages. Otherwise, the subsequent

correction of incorrectly formed intonation habits becomes a much more complicated process.

In general, intonation in English is not only a means of determining the phonetic aspect of speech, but also a complex system that ensures its semantic depth, pragmatic accuracy and social significance. Its effective teaching and mastery is one of the important tasks of the modern educational process, and the use of scientifically based methods and approaches in this regard allows achieving high results.

### **Conclusion**

The above analysis shows that intonation in English is an integral part of speech, which includes not only phonetic, but also semantic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects. Through intonation, the logical structure of the sentence, communicative direction and emotional coloring are determined, which ensures the complete and correct perception of speech. Therefore, ignoring intonation reduces the communicative effectiveness of even grammatically perfect speech.

Based on the results of the study, it was found that English learners have many problems with intonation, which are mainly explained by the incorrect use of tone, inability to place stress and the predominance of monotony in speech. However, it was found that special intonation-oriented training, in particular, working with audio materials, practicing on the basis of dialogues, and using communicative methods, significantly reduce these shortcomings.

Also, the research process proved the priority of an integrative and practical approach to teaching intonation. That is, not studying intonation separately, but developing it in harmony with listening and oral speech leads to high efficiency. This serves to form not only phonetic, but also general communicative competence of learners.

In general, in-depth study of intonation in English phonetics is one of the important conditions for perfect mastery of the language. Correct intonation ensures the accuracy, fluency, and expressiveness of speech, allowing for effective communication. Therefore, paying special attention to intonation in the process of teaching English, and consistently teaching it theoretically and practically, should be

considered one of the urgent tasks of modern education.

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