

On the Role of Intonation in Defining the Boundary of Words in English and Azerbaijani Utterances

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Abstract. The article deals with segmental and suprasegmental boundary tools. As is known, the boundary signals of meaningful units come at the beginning or end of the word. The place of stress in the compared languages differs from each other, and this distinction is manifested in boundary signals.

In the live speech, the time spent on the pronunciation of each syllable varies quite a bit, but the time interval spent on the pronunciation of a whole rhythmic group remains unchanged. Occurring, repeatedly stressed syllables in English at a specific time interval are considered a characteristic feature of the rhythm of this language. In other words, in the communication process, rhythmic division in this language is perceived based on temporal-dynamic contrasts between stressed and unstressed syllables. In the communication process, rhythmic division in this language is perceived based on temporal-dynamic contrasts between stressed and unstressed syllables.

Research shows that in the Azerbaijani language, there is one primary stress in the attributive word combinations, which falls on the first component of the word combinations. In this case, the stress in those combinations has a unifying character and forms a rhythmic group. Since English belongs to the group of analytic languages, words in this language undergo very little change within the text. Thus, intra-textual syntactic relations are realized in English, not using suffixes but prepositions.

Keywords: word stress; sentence stress; rhythmic group; proclitic rhythmic group; enclitic rhythmic group; proclitic-enclitic rhythmic group.

INTRODUCTION

The stress in English differs sharply from that in Azerbaijani regarding the place. This distinction also manifests itself in the form of boundary signals. Thus, even though the stress in English and Azerbaijani languages is dynamic, these languages belong to different types of rhythm. Therefore, the English language has stressed rhythms, and the Azerbaijani language has syllabic rhythm types. While the unit of rhythm in English is a rhythmic group, in Azerbaijani, it is a syllable. The reason for these differences is that the place of stress in English is free. At the same time, the Azerbaijani language is fixed-transient in its words, and the law of harmony of vowels mainly characterizes the latter.

It should be noted that the tone of connected speech varies depending on the rhythm of the language. A speaker who talks in a syllabic rhythm type spends equal time pronouncing each syllable, regardless of whether the syllables are mainly stressed or unstressed. This gives the listener a perception of an even rhythm rather than an impression of a broken rhythm. The syllabic rhythm type is typical for French, Spanish, and Azerbaijani languages.

In languages with the accented rhythm type (English, Russian, etc.), the rhythmic unit is based on a unit-rhythmic group more significant than a syllable. In English, a rhythmic group is formed by a single stressed syllable and a combination of unstressed syllables around it. The time spent pronouncing each syllable varies quite a bit in the live speech. Still, the time

interval spent on pronouncing a whole rhythmic group remains unchanged. Occurring, repeatedly stressed syllables in English at a specific time interval are considered a characteristic feature of the rhythm of this language. In other words, in the communication process, rhythmic division in this language is perceived based on temporal-dynamic contrasts between stressed and unstressed syllables. As a result of the increase of articulatory-acoustic energy on stressed syllables during speech flow, it forms "peaks of prominence" in those words, and the weakening of that energy in unstressed syllables forms "valleys of prominence". The schematic description of what is being said can be described in English sentences like this.

1. *The 'weather₁ in ,England | can 'change 'very ,quickly.*
2. *We 'sometimes ,say | that 'England is the 'only ,country | where you can have 'four 'seasons in 'one ,day.*

"Peaks" appearing in rhythmic groups in the given utterances mark independent lexical-semantic words, and "valleys" marks auxiliary words. Thus, the first sentence has five rhythmic groups, two syntagms (intonation group), and the second has nine rhythmic groups and three syntagms. By becoming together, rhythmic groups form a syntagm with a single meaning. Since lexical-semantic words (nouns, adjectives, numerals, some pronouns, main verbs, adverbs) in English are accented, they reflect peaks of rhythmic groups, and auxiliary words (personal and possessive pronouns, auxiliary verbs, etc.) are unstressed and reflect the valleys of rhythmic groups in the speech flow in physical form. In this regard, rhythmic groups in English mark the boundaries of phonetic words, not words expressed separately. The boundary process between rhythmic groups is mainly realized within the framework of three rhythmic groups: 1) proclitic rhythmic group, 2) enclitic rhythmic group, and 3) proclitic - enclitic rhythmic group.

A proclitic rhythmic group begins with an unstressed syllable and ends with a stressed word (syllable): *He lived ₁in ,Rome | when he was ,young.* This sentence has three proclitic rhythmic groups and two syntagms. The boundaries of the second and third rhythmic groups correspond to the boundaries of syntagms: this sentence *,Tell him about it* consists of enclitic rhythmic groups. Here, the first word is stressed, and the following words are unstressed, pronounced together with the first stressed word; in this case,

a rhythmic group is identical to a syntagm. However, the boundary of a rhythmic group may or may not correspond to a syntagm.

Proclitic-enclitic rhythmic groups are formed and organized from unstressed syllables at the beginning and end of one stressed word. *You should know about it.*

English also has a rhythmic group consisting only of stressed, lexical-semantic words.

In this type of rhythmic group, all words consist of lexical-semantic units, and in all words, the stress occurs on the first syllable of the word, as in the case of fixed stress. The boundary (beginning) of such a rhythmic group of words is also signalled by stress. For example, the answer to this question: *What is that over there?* can be *'That's ₁ : 'Granny's ₁ : 'favourite ₁ : 'wooden ₁ : 'chair.* There are five rhythmic groups in this answer, and the first syllable of each rhythmic group has a main stress conveyor.

It should be noted that the boundary of rhythmic groups in English is equivalent to syntagmatic division in content. So, sometimes, the division of the rhythmic group is approached formally; that is, they prefer to join to attach auxiliary words to the first word (i.e. enclitic rhythm) that can come between the first stressed word and the second stressed word [4, p. 74].

However, such a formal approach to rhythm has its drawbacks. Thus, taking all unstressed words as enclitics after the first stressed syllable sometimes leads to semantic distortion of the meaning. For example,

- They were 'laughed at | 'nearly ,everywhere.*
They were 'laughing at | 'nearly ,everyone.

In the given example, the formal rhythmic division in the second sentence (utterance) contradicts the meaning, while according to the meaning of the utterance, the rhythmic division should be as follows: *They were 'laughed | at 'nearly ,everywhere.*

Thus, in the first sentence (utterance), the preposition "at" is in an enclitic relationship with the verb "laugh", and in the second sentence, it is in a proclitic relationship with the adverb "nearly". From this point of view, the principle of a formal approach to rhythmic division in English utterances does not justify itself. We prefer to consider semantic and grammatical factors in rhythmic division in English utterances. In this regard, it

would be appropriate to consider other examples:

The 'child † *was* † *read to* † *every* † *night*.

The child † *was* † *reading* † *to his* † *aunt*.

She † *'never* † *re'membered* † *her* † *'doctor's* † *instructions*.

She † *'never* † *re'membered her* † *in those* † *days*.

As can be seen from the examples, grammatical semantic factors condition the proclitic and enclitic relation of morphemes “to” and “her” to stressed words.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned, a fixed stress in the Azerbaijani language signals word boundaries. So, in this language, the stress on the last syllable of the word marks the boundary of a word or morpheme; on the other hand, it marks the unstressed beginning of the next word. In the Azerbaijani language, the end of an utterance is signalled by stress and pause. However, in the Azerbaijani language, there are cases where the stress does not fall on the last syllable, in which case the word boundary is signalled not by stress but by a pause. Cases in which the stress does not fall on the last syllable in the Azerbaijani language are manifested in homonymous suffixes. For example, *süzmə* (noun), *süzmə* (imperative form of the verb), *gəlmə* (adjective), *gəlmə* (imperative form), *atın yalı*, *atın silahları*, *vuruşdur* (verb), *vuruşdur* (nominal predicate), *yarışdır* (nominal predicate), *yarışdır* (imperative form). In homonymous suffixes, the place of stress is on different syllables.

According to A. Akhundov, all suffixes in the Azerbaijani language are stressed because suffixes come after the root, and the stress always falls on the last syllable. In the Azerbaijani language, it is incorrect that some suffixes do not receive stress. In the Azerbaijani language, only homonymous suffixes do not receive stress, which is a phonological rather than a phonetic phenomenon [2, p. 280].

Word stress can differentiate word form and meaning if the differentiated units are at the same level. As mentioned, some pairs of words (noun, adjective, verb) in English differ only in the place of stress. There are also certain parts of speech and lexical-semantic units in the Azerbaijani language, the form and meaning of which differ from each other depending on the place of stress: *balaca* (adjective) – *balaca* (adverb), *yalnız* (adjective) – *yalnız* (particle), *çaparaq* (adjective)

– *çaparaq* (participle), *sabah* (noun) – *sabah* (adverb), *incəsənət* – *incəsənət*, *qara toyuq* – *qaratoyuq* (name of the bird), *uzun dərə* – *uzundərə*, *dimdik* (noun) – *dimdik* (adverb), *boş-qab* – *boşqab* (noun) etc.

Research shows that in the Azerbaijani language, there is one primary stress in the attributive word combinations, which falls on the first component of the word combinations. In this case, the stress in those combinations has a unifying character, and they form a rhythmic group [2, p. 286].

This shows that not all words have stress in connected speech in the Azerbaijani and English languages. In this language, the main parts of speech are mostly stressed, and the auxiliary parts of speech (postpositions, conjunctions and auxiliary verbs) are unstressed. Thus, unstressed words in the Azerbaijani language are pronounced together with the main parts of speech and form a rhythmic group:

Onun gözləri | *ulduz tək* | *parladı*. *Səkinə Qaraşı*
bağrına basdı, *körpəni* | *oxşar kimi* | *oxşadı*
(*M.İbrahimov*).

O, axşama-can † *çalışdı* | *və səhərə-cən* † *yatmadı*.
Nazim | *qapıdan* | *keçir-di*. *Nazim* | *topu qapıdan* | *keçirdi*.

It should be noted that the rhythmic division of Azerbaijani sentences is fundamentally different from that of the English language. This is because the morphological structure of words in this language changes entirely depending on the context within the text. This type of change is because the Azerbaijani language belongs to the group of agglutinative languages and is a language with the law of harmony.

As in English, in cases where the division of rhythmic groups is broken in Azerbaijani, the meaning is confused. As instance, F. H. Zeynalov's research shows that “*Ayrılıqdan betər dünyada nə var*”, “*Tarix proletarat verdi bizə*”, “*Elə bildim doğru ay, sarı köynək*”, “*Yığır qapılardan pay, sarı köynək*” in the reading of the verses of the poem, the word “*betər*” connects to the word *dünya*. The words “*ay*” and “*pay*” by the rhythmic pattern “*Anam sənə qurban, ay sarı köynək*” connect the combination “*sarı köynək*”, these also do not correctly reflect the content of the verses. In the verse “*Tarix proletar ad verdi bizə*” the word “*proletar*” is a homogenous member; that is, it expresses three rhythmic groups (Tarix proletar adı verdi bizə). This division also does not express the verse's period or content. Thus, the

content of this rhythmic division means that the poor were named by history on the one hand and the proletariat on the other [3, p. 84].

As mentioned, in the Azerbaijani language, there is only one primary stress in the simple attributive word combinations, and it also falls on the first component. In this case, the stress has a unifying function, and simple attributive word combinations are pronounced in one rhythmic group. For example, in the utterances *Bulaq başı toz olar. Gülün ömrü az olar*, the second and third attributive word combinations form one rhythmic group. The verb "olmaq" (to be) is also an auxiliary verb and does not receive stress. Therefore, two principal stresses in each of these utterances form two rhythmic groups in each utterance, respectively.

In addition to simple attributive word combinations, compound word combinations in the Azerbaijani language express double shades of meaning using stress. As mentioned earlier, these word combinations mainly consist of (adjective + noun + noun) combinations: *sarı saçlı qız, qara saçlı qız, geniş küçə səkisi, iri nar dənəsi, təmiz dəniz havası* etc., *sarı saçlı qız = sarıbənzir saçlı qız : sarı saçlı qız = saçlı sarı qız*.

It should be noted that the double meaning is expressed by degrees of stress in the form of a word combination, and duality is also preserved in the form of utterance.

Qara'saçlı qızı> çağırın gəlsin = qara bəniz, saçlı uzun qız

Qarâ saçlı qızı> çağırın gəlsin = qara saçlı olan qız

In English, too, certain three-element word combinations express double shades of meaning with the place and degree of stress:

'light hou'se ,keepeer = (keeper of a lighthouse) - elektrik şəbəkəsinin gözətçisi

,light 'house ke'epeer = (a housekeeper who is light) - yüngül çəkili ev gözətçisi

Since the place of stress in English is free, the end of the utterances is mainly signalled by a falling tone and a pause, and general interrogative sentences are signalled by a rising tone (interrogative intonation) and a pause:

His heart was thudding with excitement.

Can you tell me the way to the British Museum?

Since the stress in Azerbaijani is fixed-transient, the end of the utterances is signalled by stress and a pause. However, in this language, there are cases where the stress does not fall on the last

syllable in the words that come at the end of the utterance, and in this case, the end of the utterance is signalled not by stress but by a pause. For example,

Bakıda gənc rəssamların sərgisi açıldı.

Təyyarənin uçmasına on beş dəqiqə qalır.

In Azerbaijani, on the one hand, the stress signals the boundary of words, and on the other hand, at the end of utterances, in English, the stress signals the peaks of rhythmic groups in utterances.

In Azerbaijani, the end of the sentence is not signalled with stress in the case that the end of the utterance ends with an auxiliary verb and the end of the verb ends with unstressed or homonymous suffix morphemes:

Hafiz də bu il oxumağa gələcək imiş. Nədənsə, kolxoz onu buraxmamışdı (A. Valiyev).

Studies show that the stress-rhythmic structure of compound verbs in the Azerbaijani language sounds harmoniously with simple word combinations. In compound verbs, as in attributive word combinations, the first component acts as the main stress conveyor. The second component is unstressed, as it consists of auxiliary verbs, and they are pronounced in one rhythmic group:

İçəri keç, Maya, anamla tanış ol (M. İbrahimov).

Səni sevən çox bəlaya tuş olur

Əql gedir başdan, fəramuş olur (M. Vagif).

The rhythmic-intonation structure of addressed sentences (utterances) in English and Azerbaijani languages differs. Thus, addressed words used at the beginning of the sentence are stressed in both languages and form a separate rhythmic group (syntagm). However, addressed words in the middle and at the end of the sentence are unstressed in English and create an enclitic rhythmic group. In the Azerbaijani language, addressed words are stressed at the end and middle of the sentence and create a separate rhythmic group (syntagm). When addressed words are used with the words "ey" and "ay", the word used as an addressed word is unstressed, and in this case, the word used as an addressed word is realized as an enclitic rhythmic group. For example, *Anam sənə qurban, ay sarı köynək (Ashiq Alasgar). Sənin tayların heç evlənməyib ay oğul! (S. Rahimov)*

Dur qaçaq, oğlum, baş-ayaq qandı bu! (A. Sabir)

Unlike the English language, the stress tends to shift from the last syllable to the preceding syllable

bles in the words used as addressed words in the Azerbaijani language. For example,
Vaqif, yənə sən yadıma düşdün,
Titrədi qəlbimin incə telləri (S. Vurghun).
Sirri ellərdən gizli saxlama,
Dilinə yalan söz gətirmə, oğlum (S. Rustam).

It should be noted that the length factor also plays a vital role as a signalling tool in distinguishing word forms at the perceptual level in speech activity. For example, the sentence *He climbed on to the top* can be understood in a dual meaning as an expression. It also depends on whether the morphemes “on” and “to” are more or less related to the verb. If the word “on” is realized with stress, it is closely connected with the word “climbed”, and in this case, the information given in the utterance is perceived as – *He continued climbing until he reached the top*. In this case, the word “climbed” is short, and the morpheme “on” is pronounced relatively long as it is stressed, separating it from the morpheme “to”. If the morpheme “on” is unstressed, it becomes a short pronunciation. In this case, the degree of connection between the morpheme “to” and the verb increases, and the information conveyed in the utterance is perceived as *He arrived at the top by climbing* [9, p. 258]. What has been said can be shown graphically as follows:

1. *He climbed onto the top.* = *He continued climbing until he reached the top.*
2. *He climbed onto the top* = *He arrived on the top by climbing.*

The double expression form of one utterance can be observed in these sentences: “*He looked after the children*”, “*People talked about it sadly*”, and “*She didn’t die happily*”. Thus, in the first sentence, the pronunciation of the utterance in the form of a double expression depends on the realization of the pronunciation of the morpheme “after” in stressed and unstressed forms. If the morpheme “after” is realized with stress, it is pronounced long, which makes it close to the verb. In this way, its attachment to the word “children” weakens. At this phonetic point, the word “after” acts as an adverb, and since it is closely related to the verb, the utterance means that he takes care of the children. If the morpheme “after” is realized without stress, it is pronounced short, and the connection with the word “children” is strengthened. At this phonetic point, the morpheme “after” is a preposition and means “*He looked behind the children*”.

In the sentence “*People talked about it, sadly*”, the connection of the word “*sadly*” with the verb is signalled by composite tone (High Fall + Low Rise). In other words, if the sentence is realized with a high-falling tone, and the word “*sadly*” is realized with a low-rising tone, the information and attitude given in the speech is perceived as – *It was sad that people talked about it*. If the word “*sadly*” is realized together with the main sentence, then the transmitted information is perceived as *They talked about it and they did it sadly*, and it is signalled that the word “*sadly*” is closely related to the verb. What has been said can be expressed in graphic form as follows:

1. *People ,talked about it ,sadly //*
2. *'People 'talked about it ,sadly //*

Length is a primary factor in “*She didn’t die happily*” expression in two-meaning form. For example,

- 1) *She 'didn't 'die ,happily = O, xoşbəxt, məsud halda ölmədi.*
- 2) *She didn't ,die> ,happily = Xoşbəxtlikdən, o ölmədi, sağ qaldı.*

In the Azerbaijani language, a length factor is essential in signalling the boundary of words, thereby expressing a double meaning in utterances. In this regard, it would be appropriate to give here some of the exciting examples given by A. Demirchizade about the length factor in the Azerbaijani language [9, p. 169].

O kitabı oxuyur / O, kitabı oxuyur.
Yaxşı kitab oxu / Yaxşı, kitab oxu.
Ana vətən çağırır məni / Ana, vətən çağırır məni.
Ana can, / niyə belə? / Ağlayırsan?
Ana can, / niyə belə ağlayırsan?
Ana, can! niyə belə ağlayırsan?

F. Y. Veysalli, F. A. Aslanov and F. H. Zeynalov also have opinions and exciting examples of expressions that express two meanings with the length factor in the Azerbaijani language.

O gözəl / müğənnidir / O, / gözəl müğənnidir.
Qoca / atlı çobana yaxınlaşdı / Qoca atlı / çobana yaxınlaşdı.
Qəhrəman / sürücü qocaya yaxınlaşdı / Qəhrəman sürücü / qocaya yaxınlaşdı.
Azər / müəllim məni gördü / Azər müəllim məni gördü [7, p. 94].

In the Azerbaijani language, there are three-element compound word combinations in which the change of the stress forms an ambiguous meaning, and the length factor also acts as an essential tool in this phonetic situation. For example,

Geniş ótaq pəncərə,si = pəncərənin geniş həcmli olması.

'Geniş ótaq pəncərə,si = ótağın geniş həcmli olması.

Hündür çinar budağ,ı = budağın hündür olması.

Hündür çinar budağ,ı = çinarın hündür olması [3, p. 68].

Studies show that the length factor manifests itself quantitatively in different degrees. Thus, distinguishing signs and varieties formed by syllable division in languages are considered a separate phonological unit which needs a particular name. American descriptivists proposed the name of the distinguishing variety (junctional phoneme-juncture) arising from syllable division [15, p. 43].

Thus, the length occurring at the junction of two morphemes or words is treated as an open juncture and is symbolized graphically by a positive [+] sign. For example, [ən + eim] – [ə + neim] (*an aim, a name*).

The length factor between rhythmic groups is indicated by dashed lines [:] in the vertical form. *She visited> her first cousin> in London. - Ayrılıqdan betər : dünyada : nə var.*

The break between groups of meaning (syntagms) formed in terms of the syntactic-semantic and phonetic point of view is symbolized by one vertical line [/], and utterances (between sentences expressing relative completed statements) are symbolized by two vertical lines.

A single vertical line also symbolizes the length factor occurring between double-meaning utterances.

I fed her | dog biscuits.

I fed | her dog biscuits.

The farmer was bricking up | the chimney - (Kəndli bacanın ağızını kərpiclə hörürdü).

The farmer was bricking | up the chimney - (Kəndli bacanın yuxarisında kərpiclə iş görürdü).

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Note that two more signs symbolize the length factor. One of them is a vertical wavy line [/], and the other is a three-unit line [///]. The first indicates a short pause within the utterance, and the second suggests a longer pause at the end of units that is more significant than the sentence. For example,

*The trouble with college is that you are expected to know such a lot of things you have never learned
// It is very embarrassing at times///*

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of research, it is known that the phonetic phenomena manifested in utterances in the communication process, as a result, acquire phonological content. In homonymous suffixes, stress placement on different syllables also has a phonological content. The difference in form and meaning of words according to the place of stress in the Azerbaijani language occurs not at the morphological level but at the morphological-syntactic level, one of which is realized by word stress and the other by intonation. Therefore, differentiating morphologically homonymous words using stress does not justify itself.

Since English belongs to the group of analytic languages, words in this language undergo very little change within the text. Thus, in English, intra-textual syntactic relations are realized not by means of suffixes, but by means of prepositions. Another aspect is that while in English each word has a fixed stress on a certain syllable, in Azerbaijani language suffixes influence the change of the place of the stress in the word, and thus the fixed stress tends to be transitory character.

In English and Azerbaijani, words appearing in the middle of a sentence (utterance) are included in the preceding or following rhythmic group, regulated by lexical-grammatical factors.

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