

INTERRELATION OF RHYTHM AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF INTONATION

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Intonation is understood here as a close unity of speech melody, voice quality, sentence stress, temporal characteristics and rhythm. Hence the object of investigation is the character of changes in all the components of intonation under the influence of change in rhythm.

A piece of prose and a poem served as the experimental material. Five speakers read the material in two ways: first as they personally felt it should be read, then with increased rhythmicity (i.e. with greater emphasis on rhythm).

The results are as follows:

1. Emphasized rhythmicity increases the tendency towards monotone at the perceptual level which is determined by narrow intervals in the fluctuation of the fundamental frequency. This tendency is more pronounced in prose. In verse, however, the slowing down of tempo adds greatly to the impression of monotony.
2. Stresses are intensified which is determined by the increase in intensity and time.
3. The tempo is slowed down due to the increased duration of phonation and pauses.
4. The voice quality is changed. In the present material it becomes clearer and softer.

Consequently, the quantitative change (increase) in rhythm leads to the changes in other components. As a result, a qualitatively new pattern is produced which expresses a different meaning.