

EMOTIONALLY EXPRESSIVE PREREQUISITES OF LANGUAGE UNITS IN RUSSIAN SPEECH

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ABSTRACT

Innate emotionally expressive reactions: baby cries, cooing and babbling influenced by the social environment are transformed into language specific intonational signs of emotional expressiveness: vocalizations, increasing sonority segments, pseudo-words and pseudo-sensegroups. They are further transformed in Russian language environment into stressed and unstressed vowel allophones, CV syllables, syllabic rhythmic structures and communicative types of sensegroup.

The material presented here is a result of the synthesis of natural and humanitarian studies of emotions on the one hand and of speech in relation to child early development in Russian culture and language environment, on the other [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8].

The quality of innate emotional states and their intensity change simultaneously according to the zone principle. The zone of low values of emotional excitement level is qualitatively indefinite. The zone of its moderate values is emotionally positive while the zone of its high values is emotionally negative. Baby cries appear as part of emotionally negative states caused by the baby's biological discomfort: hunger, thirst, cold, overheat, etc. Social regulation and normalization of baby cries begin with the decrease of their intensity. This is achieved by the baby by the age of 2 months as a result of the imitation of his mother's voice in the process of their emotional interaction. Intensively moderate baby voice reactions as signs of communicative-cognitive behaviour, start to be opposed to intensive cries as signs of defensive behaviour. The emerging of innate intensively moderate reactions of cooing are beginning to correspond to the dynamic range of spoken speech intonation. Cooing sound tambres have zone characteristics which are conditioned by the zone structure of periodically developing emotional states related to the baby's communicative-cognitive behaviour. In the zone of relatively low values of emotional excitement level the tambre quality is indefinite (ə-tambre); in the zone of moderate values the tambre quality is differentiated according to the tendency in the emotional excitement development. Its growth and consequent increase in the tone of speech tract muscles call forth the advanced movement of the tongue and the spreading of the lips as in smile; this results in the occurrence of emotionally positive "u"-tambre. On the contrary, the decrease of

emotional strain and consequent decrease of muscular tone lead to the retraction of the tongue and the protrusion of the lips as in cry, which results in the occurrence of emotionally negative "y"-tambre.

Imitating his mother's voice in the course of their emotional interaction, the baby transforms universal biological tambres of cooing into the tambres of language-specific vocalizations. A, H, Y, ə vocalization tambres and their emotionally expressive zone transitions: ə, o, ы as well as ь, ъ, ђ in further development give rise to basic positional allophones of Russian vowels. The characteristic opposition of stressed-unstressed vowels in Russian [9] can be understood from tambre emotionally expressive regularities: unstressed vowels are language derivatives of the vocalizations that express states of low emotional and, consequently, muscular tone (detachment, disinterest).

A further step in the development of emotionally expressive speech means is ensured by the emergence of the baby's innate reactions of crying and laughter. Crying sound elements caused by the decrease of emotional excitement - sobs - can be defined as decreasing sonority segments (VC). While laughter elements caused by the increase of emotional excitement can be defined as increasing sonority segments (CV). The manifestations of great emotional excitement - burst of loud laughter and sobbing (which, as is well known, turn easily into each other) are segments of increasing-decreasing sonority (CVC). Loud laughter and sobbing are opposed to light sobs and giggles with no obvious structure.

Being able to cry and laugh, i.e. to produce sound segments of changeable sonority, the baby starts imitating similar sound complexes in his mother's speech: her laughter, crying as well as syllabic speech units. Syllables consisting of vowels and consonants are, in fact, segments of changeable sonority. Babbling, appearing at the age of 6 months, give favourable grounds for such imitation efforts.

Babbling segments of changeable sonority are quite variable; they are normalized under the influence of Russian speech standards perceived by the baby from his mother's speech. Since the basic structural unit of Russian speech is the CV syllable [4,5], already with a year-old baby the predominant babbling units are CV segments [10]. These segments are further normalized according to the degree of contrast between their composite initial noisy and final vocal elements. Social normalization of noisy maxima in CV segments is over when they are transformed into CV syllables which are characterized by

a number of syllabic contrastive features. The baby's physiological bias toward repeating every babbling segment until it has faded, emphasized accentuation of words in his mother's speech, an abundance of words with choree structure - all these factors favour the transformation of babbling segments into CV babbling pseudowords at the age of 9-10 months. Their social normalization is realized in various ways [10]. Choree pseudo-words (CVcv) which prevail in the beginning, by the age of 13-14 months become quantitatively equal to jambus pseudo-words (cvCV); by the age of 18 months jambus pseudo-words become predominant. Such pseudo-word structures are in full accord with the baby's emotional state, when of primary importance are moderate emotions of the positive zone, characterized by the increase of emotional strain. The number of CV segments, making up a pseudo-word, is normalized as well: by the age of 8 months a pseudo-word comprises 4-5 segments on the average, while by the age of 12-16 months their number is reduced to 2,5 segments which is close to the average number of syllables in Russian word-forms 2,3. Finally, the qualitative structure of pseudo-words is normalized. The prominence of a segment is achieved by its duration, loudness or pitch. The older the baby is, the more often segment prominence is realized by a complex of several means among which duration is dominant. This fact conforms to the nature of word stress in Russian. Babbling pseudo-words have various zone structures which predetermine their emotional expressiveness. Jambus emotionally positive pseudo-words (cvCV) are genetically related to the increase of emotional excitement, while choree emotionally negative pseudo-words (CVcv) are related to its decrease. Pseudo-words of indefinite temporal structure represent a relatively low level of excitement in the development of emotional states while pseudo-words of the cvCVcv type represent a relatively high level. In the course of emotional interaction with the baby adults constantly attract his attention to various objects, thus "marking" them by their own emotions [11]. The baby masters the rhythmic patterns of Russian words as normative variants of pseudo-word zone characteristics. In later melodic babbling a second year old baby uses sequences of babbling pseudo-words which correspond to the phonetic structures of sensegroups in the speech of adults. Of fundamental significance in these pseudo-sensegroups are melodic parameters. The increase of the speaker's emotional excitement, as a result of his wish to receive certain emotional information, calls forth the occurrence of pseudo-sensegroups of rising pitch movement. The absence of such a wish is marked by the decrease of emotional excitement and results in the occurrence of pseudo-sensegroups of falling pitch movement. The first, emotionally positive, type of pseudo-sensegroup is realized in questions, requests, apologies, thanksgivings, encouragements and so on. The second, emotionally negative, type of pseudo-sensegroup occurs in the transmission of information to the listener (various kinds of nominations, statements and so on). Pseudo-sensegroups of emphasized rising-falling pitch movement are typical of affect-volitional states, they are opposed to pseudo-sensegroups with vague melodic structure

(these are pseudo-sensegroups of high and, correspondingly, low zone levels of emotional excitement). Generalization of various emotionally expressive pseudo-sensegroups according to the character of the pitch movement transforms them into Russian normative communicative types of sensegroups: complete, incomplete, interrogative, exclamatory. The table below presents systemic correlates of emotionally expressive intonational signs and the corresponding phonetic forms of native (Russian) language that are based in speech social environment.

Intonational signs of emotional expressiveness	Phonetic forms of language signs
Vocalizations	Stressed and unstressed vowels
Increasing sonority segments	CV syllables
Pseudo-words	Rhythmic syllabic word structures
Pseudo-sensegroups	Melodic contours of communicative types of sensegroups

Thus, emotionally expressive intonational means can be transformed into phonetic forms of the native language only under the influence of normalizing affects of the social environment. Mastering phonetic forms of language signs is ahead of mastering their meaning. Hence the phonetic forms themselves have two functions in speech: mastered linguistic function and a prior one - emotionally expressive.

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