SYSTEM OF PROSODY AS A SUBSYSTEM OF LANGUAGE (BASED ON THE MATERIAL OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE)

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Abstract: This article describes in detail the role of supersegmental prosodic elements in the Chinese language, as a subsystem of language components. In addition, a connection is established between different theories regarding units of the segmental level of the Chinese language.

Key words: prosody, phonetics units, sound complexes, syllabic morphemes, stress, tone, syllabic phonemes, segment, suprasegmental level, initial, medial, terminal, syllabeme.

The prosody system forms a subsystem of components in the phonological system of any language. The human ear cannot perceive information consisting solely of segmental units of language, i.e. phonemes, syllables. In order to grasp the meaning of what we hear, our hearing requires units of two levels of phonology, without exception, both the segmental and supersegmental (supersegmental) levels of language.

Consequently, Chinese has a particularly rich system of supersegmental units. Modern Chinese is structured in such a way that the supersegmental level of the language is closely related to the segmental level of the language much more closely than in others, for example, in Russian and Uzbek languages.

In Chinese, there are three types of supersegmental units: tone, stress and intonation. In most agglutinative and inflectional languages, the basic unit of segmental phonology is the phoneme, which is realized in speech in the form of sounds [1, 432]. However, the main supersegmental prosodic unit in the Chinese language is tone, which performs a semantic distinguishing function. It is known that in the Chinese language the most minimal unit of a segment is a syllable, i.e. mora or morpheme and all prosodic dominants can be located only in the same unit of the segmental level.

Therefore, a syllable without tonal differences has no semantic meaning. From this we can understand that in the phonetic systems of some languages, a single sound is the minimum distinctive unit, and in languages with an isolated structure, so to speak, “sound complexes” - syllables (mores, morphemes) - act as functionally independent units [2, 2016]. These sound complexes are also called syllabic phonemes [3, 57-74]. “Phonologically,” writes A. A. Dragunov, “Chinese syllables, or, more precisely, syllabic morphemes, do not represent an indivisible whole, but when compared with each other they fall into two parts, into two phonemes - a consonant, including zero, and a vowel, the phonetic implementation of which can be very different.”

However, according to A. Kubarich, this definition is not entirely justified, since the components of this term, syllable and phoneme, are functionally opposed.

A phoneme is a unit of the sound structure of a language, serving to recognize and distinguish significant units - morphemes, of which it is included as a minimal segmental component, and through them for recognizing and distinguishing words, and a syllable, in turn, is physiologically a sound or a combination of several sounds pronounced with one impulse of exhaled air. Thus, syllable and phoneme, these two units are units of different aspects and in Chinese the phoneme cannot function as the minimal unit of a syllable. Thus, according to A. Kubarich, a more successful term is morphophoneme, which is also a hybrid of two other linguistic terms.

According to Chinese linguists-sinologists from the 3rd century AD, they divide the Chinese syllable into two parts - the initial and the final, or as it is also called (rhyme).

The initial is the initial consonant of a Chinese syllable, and the final is the remainder without the consonant. Since the 8th century. The term medial has entered into Chinese linguistics, which denotes the beginning final semivowel (usually the sounds i, u, ü). Even later, the term terminal entered Chinese philology, i.e. syllable-final vowels or nasal sonant (i, o, u, n, ng).

At the same time, Chinese linguists proposed the idea of calling the main sound of a Chinese syllable central. According to the proposed concept, “there cannot be a syllable without a central and any vowel sound of the Chinese language can be used as a central,” such as a, o, i, u, ü, e [4, 110].

According to the theory of E.D. Polivanov, a Chinese syllable is a syllable that consists of consonant and vowel phonemes, without taking into account tonal differences, i.e. syllabem. He proposed describing syllabem variants with numerical formulas, such as 1234. Numerical formulas have their own interpretation, i.e. “1-consonant, 2-non-syllabic narrow vowel, 4-non-syllabic vowel or sonata, 4-non-syllabic sonant, i.e. diphthong final element. However, E.D. Polivanov clearly distinguished between a syllabeme and a syllable: “The concept of a syllabeme does not include either the sign of tone or the sign of stress (force), which, complementing a special syllabeme, together with it constitute a complete characteristic of a Chinese syllable.” [5,624]. It should be noted that researchers adhere to a position that recognizes the presence of two independent supersegmental units in the Chinese language - tone and stress. In addition, it should also be noted that in the Chinese language there are a number of service particles that are also not toned in speech(吗 ma，呢 ne，了 le and etc.). Such cases with exclusively untoned syllables are recognized as syllables with zero (light) tone. In modern linguistics, this problem still remains relevant.

According to the theory of A.N. Aleksakhin, the interpretation of the structure of the Chinese syllable is slightly different from previous theories. He proposes to designate the structure of the Chinese syllable in the digital scheme 0123, where “0 is the position of the implementation of consonant phonemes, 1- position of the left

odd, in which three weak narrow vowels are realized, 2 - position of even, in which strong copula-differentiated or toned vowels are realized, 3- positions of the right odd, in which five weak vowels are realized."[6, 96].

According to the concept of E.D. Polivanov, only the 2nd element in A.N.'s theory is necessary for a full-fledged syllable. Aleksakhina is even, which we usually call central in traditional terminology.

Thus, it is necessary to note the obviousness of the distinction between the so-called components of Chinese phonetics - syllable and morpheme. A syllable, compared to a similar component in European languages, has a completely different systemic significance and its own, incomparable structure.Views on the structure of a syllable and syllable-forming elements in various concepts generally coincide, however, according to different linguistic theories, the components of a syllable acquire different interpretations.

A language with 21 consonant and 36 vowel phonemes is undoubtedly a "vocal dominant" language. A. Aleksakhin in his article entitled "Principles of comparison of the phonological structure of a syllable in the Russian and Chinese languages" clarifies that "the phonological system of the Russian language is characterized by a consonantal dominant, and in the Chinese language the same function of the Chinese language is characterized by a vocal dominant" [7,215-224].

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