

Temporal organization of American and British radio talk shows on marine topics

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In the given article the results of the perceptual research of American and British radio programmes on maritime topics belonging to the talk show genre are presented. The aim of this work is to identify the differential temporal characteristics that distinguish the analysed radio talk shows. The object of the research is the oral discourse of radio talk shows on maritime topics as a psycholinguistic and linguistic phenomenon. The subject of the research is a set of temporal parameters of the American and British maritime discourse. The work describes the peculiarities of radio discourse as well as characterises the tempo indicators of speech in the studied radio talk shows with the help of quantitative, comparative and statistical methods. The results of the conducted auditory analysis of tempo and pauses in different types of radio talk shows on maritime topics testify to the clear differences in the researched variants of English language. For instance, accelerated tempo and short pauses turned out to be typical of American talk shows, while moderated tempo and average pauses were more common in British programmes of the same kind. So, it has been proven that American and British radio talk shows on maritime topics differ by a certain set of parameters. Thus, the conducted experimental phonetic research enabled us to draw the conclusion that the examined radio talk shows differ in both typologically common and specific speech prosodic features. The gained result was confirmed by the results of statistic data processing.

Keywords: *radio talk show, maritime discourse, perceptual analysis, tempo, pausation*

1. Background of the research

During a few decades foreign scientists and the ones of our country, representatives of such different sciences as: philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology and journalism having studied mass-media deeply and comprehensively talk about the exceptional role of this social institute, which has become a daily necessity of a person's socio-cultural life, and which has possibilities to affect their world view, or their national culture and language as it was said in the paper by Kudryavtseva (2005).

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Linguistic researches of recent decades, carried out by Demyankov (2003), Kudryavtseva and Manaenko (2005), are devoted to the consideration of the issues of mass-communication activity modelling, manipulation technology, means of mass communication influence strategy (MCS) on mass audience. Mass-media discourse is subjected to the analysis (as a rule, a print discourse). However, a radio discourse remains an insufficiently studied area. The research conducted in this direction carry an experimental character (for example, Kapishnikova's work (1999)) or are devoted to the specific character of insignificant number of radio genres.

Thus, *actuality* of this research is conditioned by a problem of radio talk show insufficient study in modern philological literature, its genre specific character and prosodic features the comprehension of which is one of the perspective directions in modern linguistics.

The *aim* of this work consists in the description of the radio discourse on marine topics, in finding of the radio talk show genre definition, and also in the determination of the role of temporal parameters at the exposure of the distinctions between studied American and British radio talk shows.

Research material, selected for the realization of auditory analysis, was composed from 100 radio talk shows on marine topics which were broadcast by American (for example, 1 A) and British (for example, BBC 1 and 5) radio stations. Their general duration was more than 50 hours.

In the given work 'verbal text' that arises up in the process of audio communication and is passed by means of an acoustic channel through broadcasting technical equipment of radio speech and audio recording is characterized by various specific linguistic, and also paralinguistic, social factors, and unites in its composition verbal and nonverbal acoustic characteristics: a word, music, noises and other various 'phonetic kinemas' is understood under the radio discourse according to Kudryavtseva (2005).

Radio speech rates to the public type of a spoken literary speech in which the signs of a colloquial speech show up with an increasing degree (informality, situatedness, unpreparedness, ease, orality, spontaneity, stereotyping, dialogueness, emotionality, 'everyday' subject area, personal addressness of communication), that allowed us to define the radio speech style (radio discourse) as journalistic with colloquial elements.

The inclusion in public communication speech of the colloquial elements has a considerable expressive potential and produces the necessary communicative effect: assists in establishing of a contact between the subjects of radiocommunication, attracts and retains listener-ins' attention, provokes cognitive interest, pushes slightly to the reflection and, consequently, to the dialogue between a radiocommunicator and audience.

2. The main body of the research

Special parameters of a radio talk show should be noted which distinguish it from other types of a radio speech. In it, as a rule, there is a conflict, collision of different points of view, development of an idea as a result of which the conflict is settled by means of choosing the most persuasive arguments. Topic's importance, amusement, and actuality stipulate effectiveness and popularity of conversations in radio talk shows.

In functional and semantic terms, a radio talk show is peculiar to flexibility. That is why the radio talk show discourse on marine topics adopts other discursive practices features and combines them in accordance with interaction organizers' strategic line, promoting illocutive potential of a broadcast message, due to which a poli-referential and multi-intentional model of a radio talk show discourse is formed.

A host in a radio talk show is a person, provided with absolute communicative rights and authorities. He or she watches the development of a dialogue stage-by-stage, coordinates participants' speech actions and roles changing between them, and also corrects or modifies communication common flow within the limits of interaction selected pragmatic type, switching to the other episode or microtopic in case of psychologically uncomfortable or conflict communication or communicative failure. In other words, he or she plays the role of a key communicator.

An invited participant can be both a known person competent in some sphere and authoritative in certain circles and a representative of one group or another, a statistical majority values and options bearer. Besides a sender, he or she can be an 'intermediate' addressee, and a host illocution's recipient. At a positive, productive dialogue development a participant's responsive mechanism is activated, and in opposite case a participant's defence mechanism is activated which blocks or transforms the subsequent interaction flow. Prosody plays an important role in this process.

The complex method of intonation experimental-phonetic research is laid in the basis of radio talk shows prosodic parameters study, which was first worked out by Artemov (1974) and got subsequent development in works by Tseplitis (1974), Vasiljev (1976) and many other home and foreign linguists working in the area of sounding speech experimental-phonetic study such as Brovchenko (2007), Voloshin (2011), Kapishnikova (1999), and Myasnikova (2011).

The perceptive analysis first task was the determination of phrases tempo in the studied talk shows.

The conducted analysis results are presented in Table 1.

In all radio talk shows in both studied languages, both in hosts and participants' speech, clear conformities in the analysed material temporal indexes were found.

Thus, the host's speech, as a rule, was characterized by an average or slow tempo, that can be explained by the host's desire to attract participant's attention to his or her question or remark, while radio talk shows participants' speech differed in a contrasting tempo, that testifies more emotional state of the invited guests.

As for the radio talk shows on marine topics most characteristic differences it should be noted that both American radio talk shows host and participants' speed of speech exceeds corresponding indexes in British radio talk shows substantially (See Table 1).

So, according to auditory analysis data, British radio talk shows participants' speech differs in the maximum amount of phrases pronounced with an average tempo (50.8%), more than two times exceeding the number of quick cases of pronunciation tempo (24%) and slow ones (25.2%). Meanwhile, an average number of pronunciation tempo cases happened to be maximum in comparison with American radio talk shows which are characterised by an increased tempo (See Table 1).

Radio talk shows	Speakers	Perceived tempo		
		slow	average	quick
British	host	54.5	27.2	18.3
	participant	25.2	50.8	24.0
American	host	32.6	39.1	28.3
	participant	37.1	18.4	44.5

Table 1. Phrases tempo determination results in the studied British and American radio talk shows on marine topics (%)

The next task of the perceptive analysis was the duration determination of pauses between sense groups in the studied radio talk shows.

The auditory analysis results on duration perception of pauses between sense groups in British and American radio talk shows on marine topics are presented in Table 2.

Experimental material study showed that hosts' speech, as a rule, had been characterized by average pauses between sense groups, that justify speakers' quieter psychological state, which is characteristic of the prepared speech, while radio talk shows participants' speech differed in hesitation longer pauses peculiar to invited guests' more emotional state while speaking spontaneously.

It was also found out during the auditory analysis, that in American radio talk shows short pauses between sense groups are more frequent as compared with British radio talk shows (See Table 2).

Radio talk shows	Speakers	Pauses between sense groups duration		
		short	average	long
British	host	23.1	49.5	27.4
	participant	26.8	35.2	38.0
American	host	29.3	46.1	24.6
	participant	31.2	32.7	36.1

Table 2. Pauses between sense groups duration determination results in British and American radio talk shows on marine topics (%)

3. Conclusions

As a result of the conducted research the temporal parameters role was evidently shown in differentiation of the studied British and American radio talk shows. The outcomes of the present research can be applied for teaching during the course of study of students in their Bachelor or Master programmes and for self-education of specialists involved in the process of developing different radio talk shows.

In elaboration of this research the rest of prosodic features such as tempo, volume (intensity) and tone characteristics can be studied. They can also be compared with lexico-syntactical means to see how they interact.

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