

SPEECH ACCENT IN BILINGUALS' SPEECH

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INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation accent is a complex phenomenon of speech and it is created through a combination of phonetic characteristics of speech. Deviations from the pronunciation standard in the speaker's non-native speech, on the one hand, have certain peculiarities, reflecting linguistic, national, social as well as territorial identity of the person speaking with an accent.

However, speech accent is at the same time marked by common characteristics typical of any person who speaks a non-native language and does not speak it perfectly due to the lack of speaking skills, due to a certain psychological barrier when switching to a non-native language in communication, as well as for a number of other reasons, which are not identified yet. Another significant aspect in pronunciation accent is that both general and specific signs of pronunciation norm violation in bilingual's speech in an acquired language make up a general picture of accented speech (speech colored with an accent) in native speaker's perception and linguistic consciousness.

Naturally, the deviations in pronunciation are observed both at the segment (sound) and suprasegmental (prosodic) levels of speech. The least studied area of accented speech, and therefore the most vulnerable in practical terms, is considered to be the intonational pattern of foreign speech. In our opinion, the study of a foreign accent in bilinguals' speech at the prosodic level is of high importance, since the accented speech is especially "betraying" a speaker in a foreign language in larger units, especially in longer utterances. At the same time, errors in word, phrase stress distribution, as well as in defining the intonation center in the phrase are vivid markers of bilinguals' accented speech.

1. Specificity of bilinguals' speech

Current process of international globalization and integration make the research of ethnic and cultural specifics as first-rate. The studies of intercultural communication today are represented in the scientific works of many linguists.

It has commonly been assumed that, intercultural contacts depend on the ability of the participants to understand each other and reach an agreement. Those factors are defined mostly by ethnic culture of each part that interacts as well as nations' psychological and cultural values they possess. Therefore, intercultural communication can be observed as native speakers' contact, which results phonetic interference on different levels. Thus, phonetic interference causes the difficulty of perception and production of bilinguals' speech.

In terms of intercultural communication there appears an interaction between language maps of the world as well as their part which is national specific one. We consider intercultural communication as the interaction of different cultures, that is conceptualized by different language systems. Finally, intercultural communication is as interaction of national specific part of language maps of the world, in which the citizens share mutual sociocultural space.

Transformational processes in European Union's countries, namely Slovakia, have contributed to the demand for information on the culture, the strengthening of the communicative positions of the Slovak language, and with the country's accession to the European Union – the joint functioning of the Slovak and English languages as the main communicative partners in a single socio-linguistic space.

These processes also contributed to the formation of young Slovaks in the world, increased their interest in mastering the Slovak language, attracting historical, cultural, ethnographic material, as well as thorough study of the worldview of Slovaks and more. As a result, those changes affect the role of communication participants, especially those immigrants to the United Kingdom.

We should note that a characteristic feature of Slovakia is the collective bilingualism and multilingualism of indigenous peoples. Thus,

the Slovaks living in Bratislava Region are considered to be Slovak-English-Hungarian-Czech-German bilinguals, while the residents of Kosice region – Slovak-Ukrainian-Russian, Banska-Bystrica region – Slovak-English-Czech-Hungarian-Russian bilinguals. Mainly, after the country's accession to the European community, the influence of English on the Slovak language has increased. As a result, young people have begun to actively use English instead of existing Slovak counterparts in everyday communication, to study English at language courses at universities, to travel to the United Kingdom, gradually improving their English skills, as well as immigrate to UK.

Thus, the intercultural communication of the Slovaks is a form of communication among the population in this region, in which the ways of realization of different situations by different cultures appear to be not identical, that is, there are differences in their implementation and interpretation. The multi-ethnicity, multilingualism, multiculturalism and multimentality of the Slovak population formed a new educational space – multicultural. Besides, awareness of the importance of cultural and historical factors in the processes of communication, knowledge and adequate behavior of the representatives of different ethnic groups contributes to the success in intercultural communication, because the process of communication requires mutual understanding and mutual adaptation of the interlocutors.

Particular attention should be paid to empathy – the ability to understand other people, their thoughts as well as feelings. Personality as a subject of communication becomes real and effective only when the community has a developed reflection – the ability to perceive yourself as a self-enhancing personality. The most important component of a communicative culture of intercultural communication is language mastering.

The term “accent” (*lat. accentus – accent*) was previously associated with the selection of individual elements in the speech flow (vowels, syllables, words, parts of phrases) by the means of voice. However, in modern linguistics, this term denotes not only the emphasis in a word or phrase, but is also used to describe the particular character of the

pronunciation of a speaker who does not have a common spoken language standard. Actually, nowadays the term “foreign accent” is commonly associated with the pronunciation of a speaker in a non-native language.

During the first stage of our experimental research, which included auditory analysis, the experimental material selected was listened by English-speaking informants, naive users, and phoneticians with experience of audio-language texts auditing in order to obtain data and establish the peculiarities of the suprasegmental characteristics of English spoken by the Slovaks, who immigrated to the United Kingdom.

With the help of a special questionnaire, created by the author, the auditors, naive English speakers, were offered mainly to establish the natural sounding of experimental material corpus and its compliance with Received Pronunciation (RP). Noticeably, Received Pronunciation is a way of pronouncing British English that is used as a standard in the teaching of English as a foreign language¹.

Secondly, native speakers were not only to identify standard and interfered statements, but also to find out the speaker’s accent, the clarity of his / her pronunciation, the clarity of the perceived text, to determine the nationality of the speaker or his / her origin (native English speaker, the Slovak, other origin), as well as to establish the presence / absence of education (secondary, higher), to find out the social status of the speaker (student, volunteer, member of public organization, member of parliament, social worker, scientist, etc.), identify his / her affiliation with a specific professional group (foreign language specialist / non-specialist).

According to auditory analysis data, naive users of English qualified 80.04% of the texts narrated by the Slovak speakers as acceptable, including 32.06% of the fragments that had a natural sounding and conformed to the English standard pronunciation. At the same time, 47.98% of the texts narrated were perceived by the auditors as natural with minor deviations and violations of the reference language, and 19.96% were considered as unnatural with significant deviations from the English standard.

¹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/received-pronunciation>

In this regard, it turns out that 12.52% of the statements realized by native English speakers were defined as standard ones, 87.48% of the total amount of experimental material corpus were interfered statements, narrated by the Slovak speakers of English. This very data enabled us to establish a combination of suprasegmental means which are invariant for the Slovaks, irrespective their residence duration in the United Kingdom, their degree in education, professional background, etc., and also those suprasegmentals depend on the level of interference in English spoken by the Slovaks.

The auditors rated the English speech of the Slovaks as low level of mastering it that makes 12% of the total amount of the utterances. Expressions which were characterized by a high level of foreign language competence accounted for 25%. The largest number of utterances pronounced by the Slovaks had intermediate level of proficiency in English (63%).

According to auditory analysis findings, the deviations from the English pronunciation standard established during listening to fragments were perceived as the markers of phonetic interference in English spoken by the Slovaks.

While determining the nationality of the speaker, half of the total number of auditors, naïve speakers, classified 30% of the speakers as people of Czech nationality and, accordingly, stated Czech variant of English language (*Czenglish*); 25% of auditors qualified 30% of speakers as Ukrainians and Poles, that is the speakers of Ukrainian and Polish accents (*Ukrainlish*, *Poglish*). The other 25% of auditors perceived 40% of speakers as persons of Slovak origin, speakers of Slovak accent in English (*Slovglish*). Therefore, we may suggest that the Slovak language influences significantly the pronunciation of English spoken by the Slovaks as well as helps to determine the degree of interference in their speech.

The following part of this paper moves on to describe in greater detail the information on the availability / lack of speakers' education (secondary or higher) which seemed interesting. The majority of informants (82%) attributed 62% of the speakers to those with higher

education, and 38% to persons with secondary education. At the same time, 18% of naïve users qualified the speech of 42% of speakers as those having a scientific degree and, accordingly, 58% of speakers with secondary education.

The analysis conducted has highlighted the differences in indicators mentioned in questionnaires data of the Slovaks and the auditors, naïve English users. Thus, according to the analysis of the questionnaires of the Slovak speakers, 41% of them have higher education, 29.5% indicated postgraduate education and the remaining 29.5% of Slovaks noted secondary education.

In addition, naïve users of English were asked to find out the social status of the Slovak speakers. Thus, 32.64% of naïve users stated that 35% of the Slovak speakers are entrepreneurs or workers for non-governmental organizations, and the majority (65%) is made by the students. The results of the second part of the naïve users of English (67.36%) are somewhat different: they qualified the English speech of the Slovaks as those of civil servants (51.15%), scientists (22.45%), volunteers (13.20%) and the unemployed (13.20%).

In terms of establishing the data as a specialist / non-specialist in foreign language reports indicated that 80.04% of the speakers were perceived by native speakers as foreign language specialists (in English), whereas 19.96% were recognized as non-specialists. Unlike the results of the naïve speakers, the Slovaks indicated their degree of English speaking as follows: 50% – upper intermediate, 25% – intermediate, 25% – pre-intermediate.

The above mentioned data indicates that the number of texts examined, which were fully understood by the auditors, makes 32.06%, whereas misunderstood texts, narrated with some errors, including pronouncements that interfere with and influence the perception of the content, account for 47.98%. The remaining 19.19% of the total number of texts heard were those that were qualified as misunderstood and narrated with significant errors in utterance pronunciation and intonation. Such texts have been removed from further analysis.

2. Bilinguals' English speech analysis

According to the methodology of experimental phonetic research, the phoneticians analyzed the corpus of experimental material selected in the first stage and aimed to establish the adequacy of the intonational organization of the narrated text according to the orthoepic norm of British English, to highlight the clarity of the English pronunciation when narrating literary texts, to state the degree of phonetic interference in English speech of the Slovaks.

Similarly, the phoneticians were to find out the quality of conveying the text context by means of intonation, to check availability and degree of emotional component conveying in the voiced text (high, medium, low), to establish the correctness of pragmatic purpose in the narrated text. During the auditive analysis, three stages of phonetic interference (low, medium, high) were identified by the phoneticians.

According to the information provided by the informant auditors, 28.09% of the narrated text fragments were characterized by a high degree of phonetic interference. In 42.24% of the texts perceived by the informants, phonetic interference was qualified as medium, whereas low degree of phonetic interference was attributed to 29.67% of the total texts analyzed.

At the same time, native speakers have noted that the English speech of the Slovaks with low and medium level of language competence sounds not very natural and a significant influence of the native language is felt, whereas those speakers with a high level of English proficiency have little influence of their native language in their English speech. Thus, we may suggest that the degree of phonetic interference manifestation in English spoken by the Slovaks can be qualified as high, medium, and low, which is inversely proportional to the low, medium, and high levels of English language competence of the speakers.

A more detailed account of prosody in accented English speech of the Slovaks is given in the following section. Auditive analysis of the prosodic characteristics of English spoken by the Slovaks also revealed that all Slovak speakers, regardless of their residence duration in both Slovakia and the United Kingdom, of their level of education, professional

background, etc., made mistakes in the pronunciation of individual sounds, words, and the intonational organization of their utterances did not always correspond to the reference sample, narrated by native English speakers.

Therefore, the most typical violations on suprasegmental level in English utterances pronounced by the Slovaks included the following:

1) the intonational pattern of main and secondary information was not always adequate;

2) no variation in tone levels, tempo and volume in expressing semantic contrast in expression;

3) excessive use of stress on each word in the intonation group, monotonous manner of sounding, desire to highlight each word in the phrase;

4) usage of a considerable number of pauses of different duration, etc.

Particular attention of philologists, the auditors, was attracted by the incorrect formation of the melodic contour, namely the use of a high beginning in the intonation group instead of a low or medium one in the realizations actualized by the Slovak speakers of English.

Remarkably, the native speakers of the English language noted that such violations impeded the perception of the literary work, in some cases made it impossible to understand the meaning of the expression and influenced the conveying of the pragmatic purpose in literary text. Mainly, the decoding of the statements' content perceived by the auditors was largely influenced by the incorrectness of the statements' division into semantic groups, as well as by the lack of correlation of the content with the degree of emotional aspect of the expression.

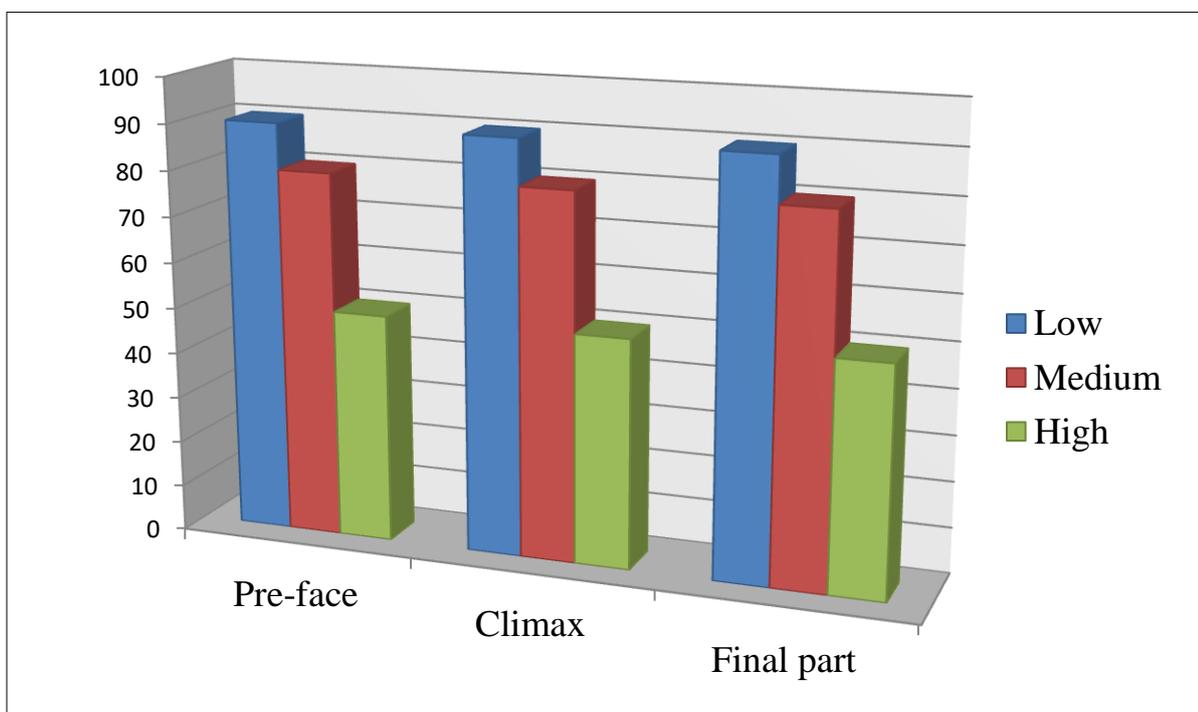
According to the analysis of the degree of prosodic interference manifestation, only 29.67% of the interfering expressions of the narrated literary texts coincide by the number of intonation groups with similar reference samples, 42.24% of the statements are marked by slight deviations of the separation of the analyzed statements on semantic groups, while 28.09% of utterances have complete inconsistency on this trait in comparison with reference samples.

During the auditive analysis, the informants with philological training identified some violations of the rhythmic organization of the statements,

deviations in tempo and volume of speech, the distribution of phrase stress, which together led to errors in actual phrase stress and affected the convey of meaning and the degree of expression of pragmatic sense. In addition, native speakers noted in the comments to the protocols that such incorrect rhythmic organization of the narrated text sounded unnatural and monotonous and it was difficult to perceive it.

Moreover, the decoding of the content of the interfered fragments perceived by the auditors informants was greatly influenced by the incorrectness of the utterances division on the sense groups, as well as by the lack of correlation of the content with the degree of expression of the meaning of the literary text.

Another example of the fragments narrated by native English speakers and the speakers of Slovak language regarding the correctness of the convey of their meaning by means of intonation, allowed to establish the degree of expression of emotional and pragmatic potential by the speakers in standard and interfered utterances as well as the conformity of the intonation design of the interfered statements to their pragmatic purpose and emotional saturation.

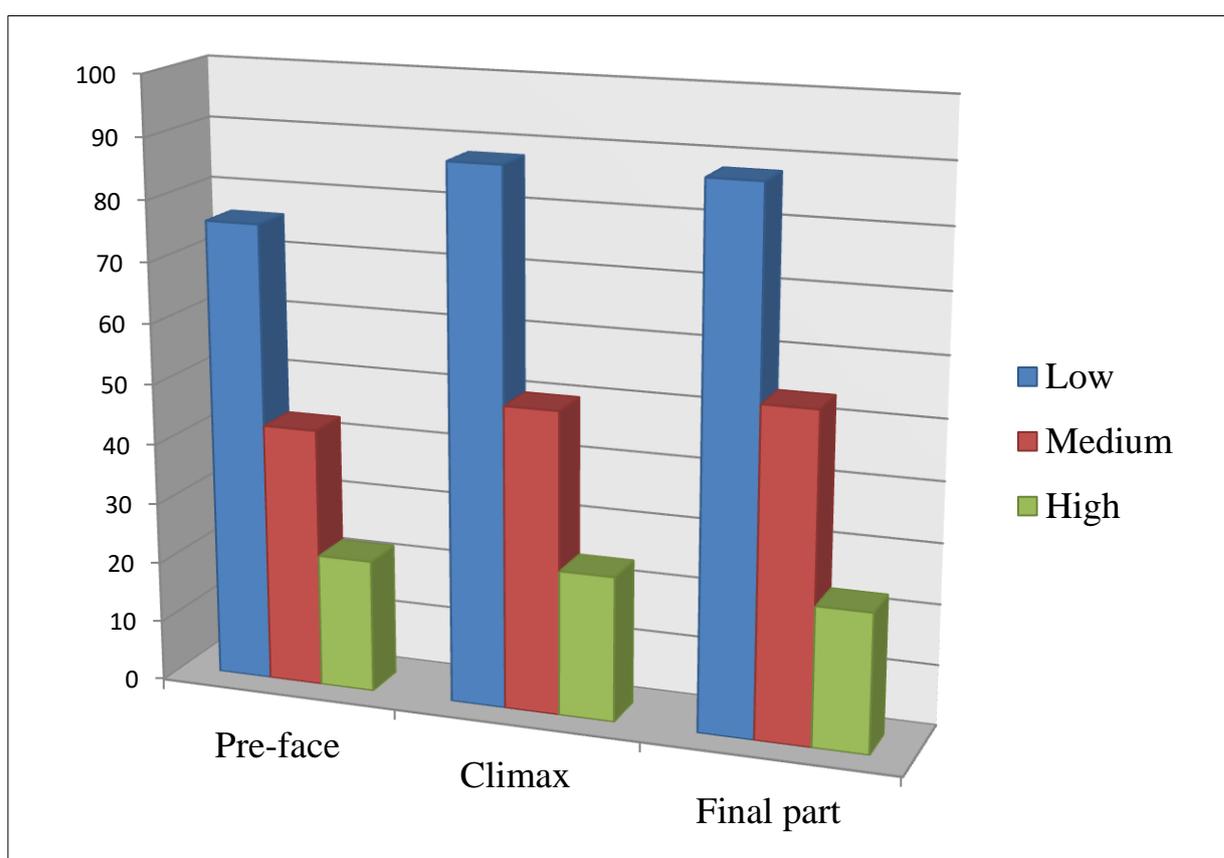


Pic. 1. The level of utterance meaning convey by means of intonation (according to bilinguals' data)

The results showed that the expression of the degree of emotional and pragmatic potential of the literary texts' fragments narrated by the speakers of Slovak is inversely proportional to the degree of utterances' interference: the lower the degree of phonetic interference manifestation, the higher the degree of emotionally pragmatic expression of the text and vice versa.

Thus, fragments of the text, narrated by the Slovak speakers with a low degree of phonetic interference, have been qualified as those having an intonational design that corresponds to their pragmatic purpose and emotional saturation and has a high level of meaning convey.

In contrast, we present the results of auditive analysis by phonetic auditors, professional phoneticians, who have evaluated the degree of meaning and emotionally pragmatic expression transmission by means of intonation as follows:



Pic. 2. The level of meaning and emotionally pragmatic expression convey (according to phonetic auditors, professional phoneticians' data)

Particular deviations from the English language standard did not prevent the English-speaking auditors from determining the pragmatic content of the fragments of narrated literary texts. Minor deviations of intonational expression of pragmatic sense convey and the emotional saturation of the literary texts is inherent in bilingual Slovak speakers with a medium degree of phonetic interference, whereas the level of meaning convey is qualified as medium.

This is due, on the one hand, to a lack of understanding of the meaning of the entire text or a single sentence, on the other, there is a lack of skills in reading in English and the ability to narrate literary texts.

A high degree of phonetic interference was recorded in the group of the Slovaks whose intonation contour, as well as the expression of its pragmatic purpose and emotional saturation of a sense of expression did not respond the situation.

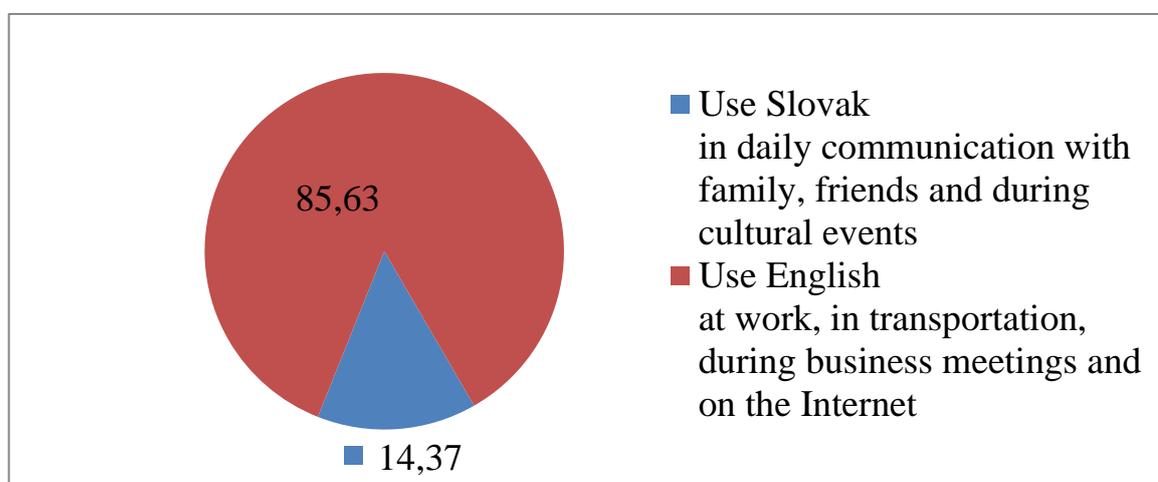
In this case, the degree of conveying the pragmatic context of the narrated fragment was acknowledged as low. Moreover, the deviations from the literary standard in the pronunciation of the Slovaks on segment level created additional difficulties in the perception of the texts narrated by them.

Thus, we can conclude that the results, performed in terms of auditive analysis of the experimental material by the auditors with the philological preparation allow us to establish the degrees of phonetic interference in the English pronunciation of the Slovak speakers and to divide them into the appropriate groups (high, medium, low) for the next stage of experimental-phonetic study, namely the analysis of the selected case of experimental material by phoneticians, the auditors.

Therefore, observing and analyzing specially designed questionnaires for the Slovaks, the participants of the experiment, allowed to trace the extinguishing characteristics typical of immigrants. It was found out that the Slovaks who immigrated and lived in the UK, they study a second language in the immediate sociocultural context of communicating with its speakers and have a natural bilingualism, which in its turn makes it possible to form bilingualism. Thus, in the process of foreign language communication of Slovaks a low degree of phonetic interference is observed.

At the same time, we have established the type of bilingualism in Slovak-speakers according to the scope of use of two languages (Slovak and English) and determining their value orientation. Thus, 85.63% of Slovaks argued that they use English daily at work, in public transport, on vacation, sometimes at home, during business meetings and on business trips, whereas, they communicate in Slovak language mostly with family, at home, with friends, on vacation, etc. This leads to the conclusion, that 85.63% of the speakers belong to a vertical type of bilingualism, which prefers to use the literary language and the dialect of one language. At the same time, one language is preferred over the native values scale.

In contrast, 14.37% of the Slovak speakers of English mentioned that they use English only in public transport, in everyday communication situations, etc., whereas at work, at home, with their family they speak only Slovak. In addition, the above-mentioned speakers added comments on the value orientation of the language in their comments to the questionnaires and determined which speakers they consider themselves to be.



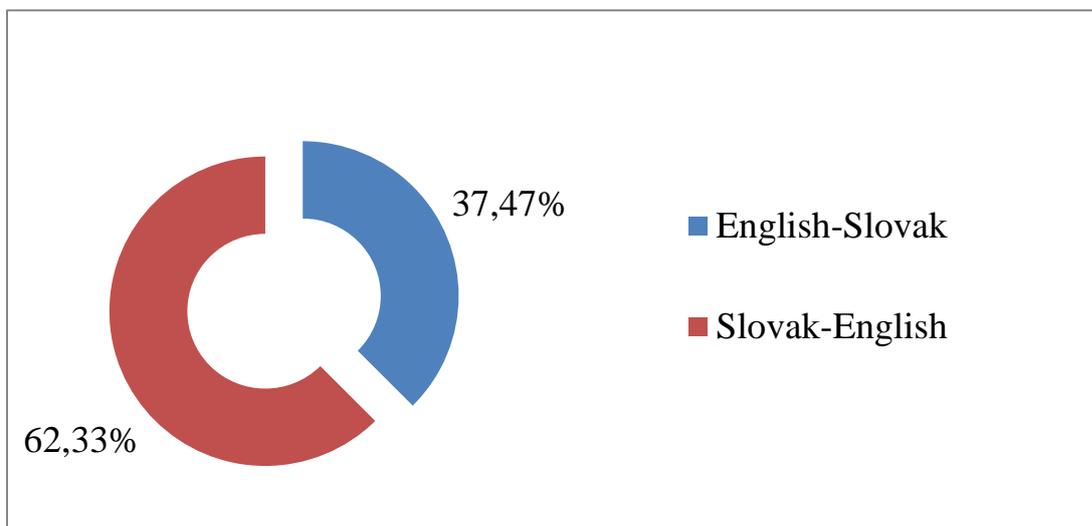
Pic. 3. English and Slovak Language usage in United Kingdom (among the Slovaks, immigrants to United Kingdom).

Thus, 85,63% of those who were interviewed, indicated that they use English at work, in transportation, during business meetings and on the Internet. Approximately 14,37% of those who responded that they use Slovak language in daily communication with family, friends and during cultural events.

This interpretation contrasts from that of informants, as bilingual speakers indicated their English language proficiency as follows: 50% – upper intermediate, 25% – intermediate and 25% – pre-intermediate respectively. Therefore, the total number of bilingual Slovaks, the speakers of English, with a certificate of language competence makes 34% of the respondents.

Since the duration of learning and using English language by bilinguals is of high importance in our study, it is appropriate to summarize the results of these data. Most of the respondents (50% of total amount of the speakers) argued that they had been learning English since childhood, 25% of the speakers mentioned over 15 years and the rest 25% of the speakers stated that they had been learning English during past 10 years.

With regard to the duration of English usage by the respondents, the data obtained were as follows: 60% of the speakers use English more than 15 years, 23% of the speakers have been using English during past five years, another 25% of the speakers have been using English more than 10 years. At the same time, the speakers were asked to indicate the level of language competence in their native language, the Slovak. It is worth noting, that all bilinguals have qualified their level of Slovak language as the highest, including even those respondents who have lived in the UK for over 20 years, which is indicative of linguistic patriotism, that respectively results in a value orientation in language priority for immigrant bilinguals.

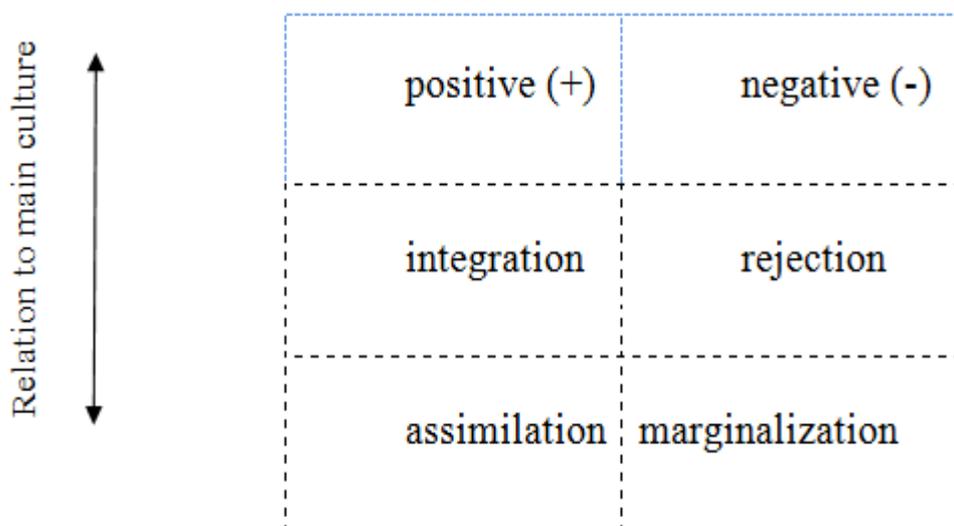


Pic. 4. Value orientation in language choices

The majority of the speakers consider themselves to be English-Slovak bilinguals (62, 33%) despite the fact that they speak English daily in all possible areas, whereas the second group of the speakers (37.67%) uses Slovak on every occasion, 14% of the speakers said that when producing English, they think in Slovak, and that interpreting from English into Slovak and vice versa is of great complexity for them.

As an example, we may look through the bilingual speakers' responses to the situations in which they switch to Slovak. Therefore, for example, 35, 78% of respondents proved that they alternate Slovak and English when they are in a state of stress, depression, sorrow, disappointment, disgust and frustration. While the speakers who switch to Slovak after English in a state of excitement, excessive astonishment, happiness, encouragement, harmony and joy make up 42, 95%.

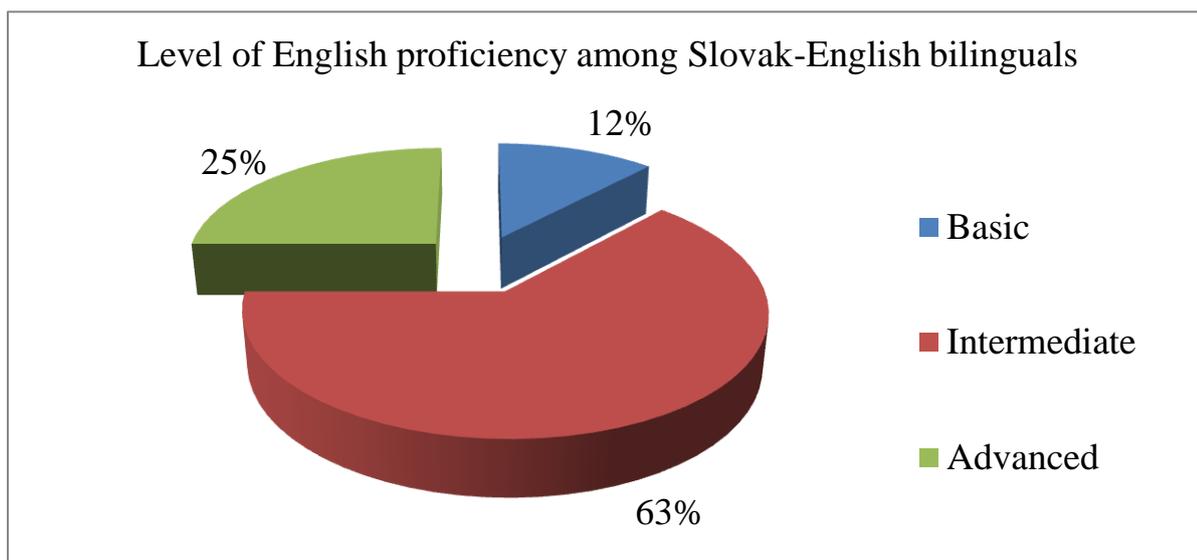
Another group of bilingual speakers that make 18.03% commented that they use Slovak in any unexpected, unknown and strange situations. These findings have significant implications for the understanding of how such a situational switching from one language to another may be related, first of all, to the level of foreign culture perception or non-acceptance by bilinguals.



Pic. 5. Perception / non-perception of foreign culture by bilinguals

From the entire volume of the material, we selected the most common fragments of literary texts with a duration of 4-5.5 minutes each to achieve the goals of the experiment. The narration was delivered by bilingual speakers of English, the Slovaks, who have experience in narrating texts. Speakers were consulted prior to recording texts due to the purpose of the experiment. The bilinguals had time to prepare before reading the texts. Each speaker agreed to use the recording of his speech in the experiment.

The speakers were selected using a specially designed questionnaire according to the following criteria: age, nationality, place of birth, place of their parents' birth, current place of residence, place of the longest residence, education, conditions and duration of learning English, conditions and duration of learning Slovak language, profession, social status, status of English as a native or foreign language, etc.



Pic. 6. Level of English language proficiency among Slovak-English bilinguals

Therefore, 19 people were selected as the narrators for the experiment: 8 men and 11 women. It should be noted that in this experiment, the analysis of gender features of English language was not intended. Also, the experimental material was narrated by native speakers of English who have a standard British pronunciation (Received Pronunciation) and the Slovaks who live both in Slovakia and those, who immigrated to the United Kingdom.

The basis of the analyzed material made audio recordings of excerpts read by indigenous British speakers with standard British English pronunciation. Two texts were narrated by British actor and storyteller Robert Glenister, who has experience in auditing contemporary and classical British literature more than 15 years. The other part of the literary works included audio texts recorded by short stories author, David Constantine, a British writer, poet and translator, English teacher at Oxford University, laureate of many literary awards, including the BBC's National Prize for the best stories, mainly for his short story "Tea in the Midland".

The choice for standard British pronunciation (Received Pronunciation) is due to the fact that this option is considered a kind of marker of high level intelligence and still prevails in the speech of the Royal family, members of parliament and the executive power of the country. Moreover, the British themselves associate Received Pronunciation with the prestigious professions and the well-known origin of the speaker.

The first group of the speakers consisted of five people with higher education and a scientific degree, representing the following professional groups: a lawyer, a diplomat, a doctor, an entrepreneur, a linguist, all of them having a high degree of English language proficiency. The second group included the speakers consisting of seven persons with incomplete higher education or higher education and intermediate level of English (an actress, a journalist, a freelancer, a translator, a student, a worker, a social services worker, a politician).

Mainly, the representatives of the third group, consisting of five people, have secondary education and low level of English (a nanny, a cosmetologist, a worker, a student, an athlete).

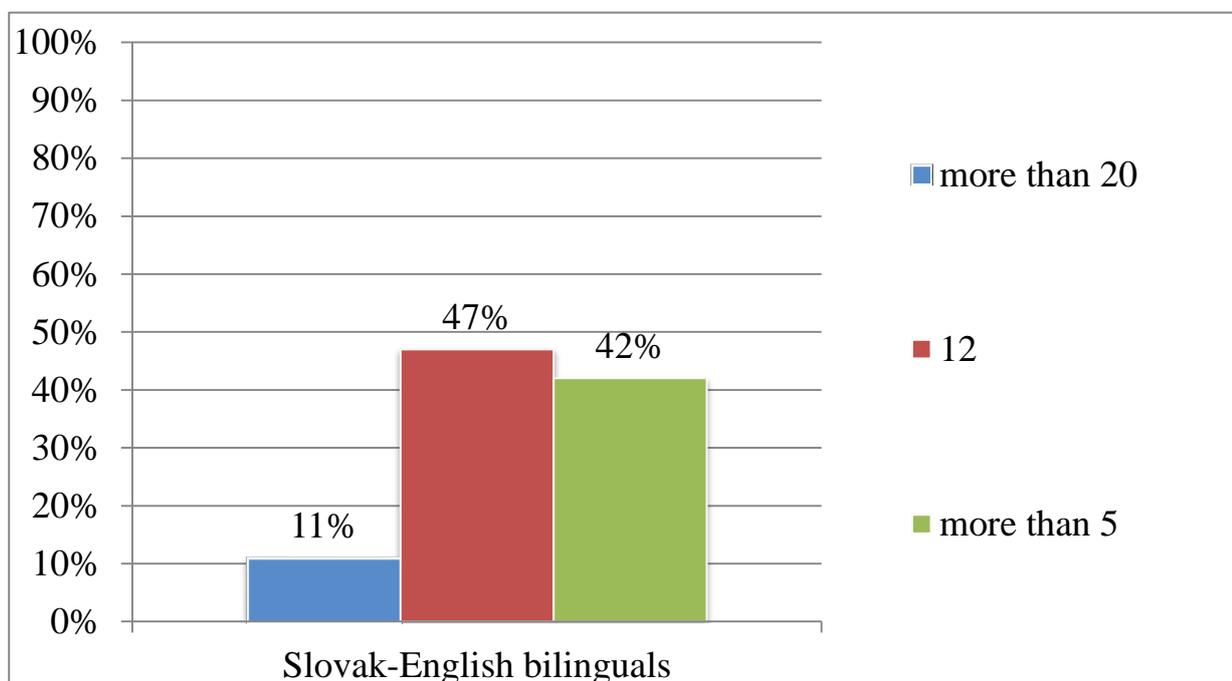
Such criteria were used based on the theory of social stratification by V. Labov, who emphasizes that gender, age, and social status of the speakers are considered to be the most important factors in the differentiation of pronunciation². According to the analysis of the questionnaire data, all speakers were divided into three complex groups:

² Лабов У. О механизме языковых изменений. *Новое в лингвистике.*: Прогресс, 1975. Вып. 7. С. 199–228.

1) native English speakers, professional speakers who were born and reside in the United Kingdom, have standard English pronunciation (10% of total speakers);

2) non-native English speakers, the speakers of Slovak origin, who were born and live in Slovakia (37% of total speakers);

3) non-native English speakers, the speakers of Slovak origin, who were born in Slovakia, but emigrated to the United Kingdom and have lived there for a long period of time (from five to twenty-five years), whether working at companies or studying at universities, they speak and understand Slovak (53% from the total number of speakers).



Pic. 7. Residence duration of Slovak-English bilinguals in United Kingdom.

A multiaged category of the Slovaks, including those living in the United Kingdom, was selected to achieve the goals and objectives of the experimental-phonetic study. Thus, the age of the Slovaks varies from 27 to 57 years, but the maximum number (47%) is not more than 40 years.

The experimental material was recorded in two stages: the recording of literary texts narrated by native speakers of English, professional narrators and permanent residents of the United Kingdom, who have

standard English pronunciation (first group of speakers); the recording of the main part of the experimental material with non-English speakers, the Slovaks by origin, who emigrated to the United Kingdom and lived there from five to twenty-five years (second, third and fourth groups).

Phonetic analysis of the suprasegmental level was performed according to the research methodology due to the following plan:

1) auditive analysis of narrated texts by auditors-informants, native speakers of the orthoepic norm of English, naive English users;

2) auditive analysis by English-speaking auditors, philological informants with experience in auditing narrated texts;

3) auditive analysis of perceptive characteristics of experimental texts by professional phoneticians;

4) acoustic analysis of the tonal, temporal and dynamic prosodic characteristics of the standard and interfered utterances.

The outcomes of the analysis, conducted by naïve user of English and professional phoneticians showed that a certain tonal, dynamic and temporal design ensures the actualization of standard and interfered statements with different degrees of phonetic interference, that is low, medium and high.

CONCLUSIONS

Auditive analysis conducted by both auditors without philological training, and with philological training, whose purpose was to establish the specificity of the English pronunciation of the Slovaks at a prosodic level allows to assert that a number of factors influence the actualization of English interfered utterances and makes possible the analysis interpretation of the data obtained.

Auditive analysis conducted by native speakers of English without philological training, allowed to establish the natural sound of the experimental material corpus and its compliance with the pronunciation standard of British English; standard and interfered statements; the accent of the speaker, the clarity of his pronunciation, the readability of the perceived text; the nationality of the speaker or his / her descent (native English speaker, of Slovak origin, other origin, etc.); the availability / lack

of education (secondary, higher); social status of the speaker (student, volunteer, member of public organization, member of parliament, social worker, scientist, etc.); his / her affiliation with a particular professional group (foreign language specialist / non-specialist).

The results of the analysis showed that the clarity of the English pronunciation of the Slovaks and the comprehensibility of the text differed from their standard equivalent. The informant auditors found that the speakers with low level of phonetic interference were able to convey the emotional saturation and pragmatic purpose in all four narrated texts.

The English speech of the Slovaks with medium interference was qualified by the informants as not entirely clear, with some misspellings that sometimes affected the convey of emotional saturation and purpose. Besides, incorrect convey of the pragmatic potential of utterances was actualized by the speakers with high level of phonetic interference.

According to the data obtained during the analysis of informant auditors with philological training, there is reason to believe that a certain tonal, dynamic and temporal design ensures the actualization of standard and interfered statements with different degrees of interference.

SUMMARY

The study deals with the comprehensive study of prosodic characteristics of English Speech of the Slovaks and the identification of deviations from the pronunciation standard in the speaker's non-native speech.

On the basis of existing theoretical and experimental works on the study of English speech of the Slovaks, we have qualified it as an interfered English speech formed as a result of the interaction of phonetic systems of the English and Slovak languages. Moreover, the intercultural communication of Slovaks is a form of communication of the population of this region, in which the ways of realization of different situations by different cultures are not identical, that is, there are differences in their implementation and interpretation. The multi-ethnicity, multilingualism, multiculturalism and multimentality of the Slovak people, namely immigrants to United Kingdom is observed in the study.

The experimental research outcomes have shown that a certain tonal, dynamic and temporal design ensures the actualization of standard and interfered statements with different degrees of interference.

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