

PHONETIC MEANS OF EXPRESSING "JOY" IN ENGLISH

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Abstract. The article investigates the phonetic means by which the emotion of joy is expressed in the English language. It focuses on prosodic features such as intonation, pitch, stress, and duration, as well as non-lexical vocalizations including laughter and interjections. By analyzing these phonetic cues, the study highlights their role in conveying affective meaning beyond the lexical level. The research contributes to the broader understanding of emotional phonetics and underscores the significance of sound-based elements in the paralinguistic transmission of positive emotions in spoken English and this article discusses the views of anthropologists and psychologists, in particular the views of the famous scientist Rosaldo on emotions. The role of intonation in expressing positive emotions such as joy and happiness in English, the characteristics of phonetic means in speech and their communicative functions are presented.

Key words: intonation, pitch, tempo, stress, pause, phonetic tone, enthusiasm, rhythm, communicative function, expressive emphasis, high pitch, wide pitch range, acoustic properties.

ФОНЕТИЧЕСКИЕ СРЕДСТВА ВЫРАЖЕНИЯ "РАДОСТИ" В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Аннотация. В статье исследуются фонетические средств выражения эмоции радости в английском языке. Основное внимание уделяется просодическим особенностям, таким как интонация, высота тона, ударение и длительность, а также нелексическим вокализациям, включая смех и междометия. Анализируя эти фонетические сигналы, исследование выявляет их роль в передаче аффективного значения за пределами лексического уровня. Исследование способствует более широкому пониманию фонетики эмоций и подчёркивает значение звуковых элементов в паралингвистической

передаче положительных эмоций в разговорном английском языке. В статье рассматриваются взгляды антропологов и психологов, в частности, взгляды известного учёного Росальдо на эмоции. Рассматривается роль интонации в выражении положительных эмоций, таких как радость и счастье, в английском языке, рассматриваются особенности фонетических средств речи и их коммуникативные функции.

Ключевые слова: интонация, высота звука, темп, ударение, пауза, фонетический тон, энтузиазм, ритм, коммуникативная функция, экспрессивное выделение, высокий тон, широкий диапазон высоты звука, акустические свойства.

INTRODUCTION

Emotions are central to human communication, and speech is one of the most powerful channels through which emotions are conveyed. While the lexicon plays a role in naming and describing emotional states, phonetic features such as pitch, intonation, stress, and vocal quality are often more immediate and universally perceived indicators of emotional experience. Among positive emotions, joy is one of the most vividly and spontaneously expressed through phonetic means. This paper focuses on the phonetic strategies employed by speakers of English to convey joy and enthusiasm in spontaneous and intentional speech. Joy and happiness are some of the most vivid and positive emotions in human life. According to anthropological and psychological researchers, speakers of different languages and representatives of different cultures conceptualize emotional and cognitive experiences differently¹. In particular, Rosaldo, when discussing emotions, emphasizes that they reflect partly physical, but also moral or spiritual relationships of the individual. He emphasizes that language in this paradigm is not only a mirror that reflects emotions, but also a means of reconstructing them [Rosaldo, 1984; 137-157].

Language is a means of expressing human emotions, and phonetic means, in particular intonation (phonetic tone), play a special role in this. In English, the role of intonation in expressing positive emotions such as joy and happiness is incomparable. In addition to words, in the structure of speech, the speaker's feelings are clearly expressed with the help of sound features such as pitch, tempo, stress, and pauses.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS

¹ H. Chua, J. Boland and R. Nisbett, "Cultural Variation in Eye Movement During Scene Perception," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* Aug. 30, 102, no. 35 (2005), pp. 12629-33; A. Lillard, "Ethnopsychologies: Cultural Variations in Theories of Mind," *Psychological Bulletin*, 123, no. 1 (1998), pp. 3-32; C. Lutz, *Unnatural Emotions: Everyday Sentiments on a Micronesian Atoll and their Challenge to Western Theory* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1988); J. A. Russell "Culture and the Categorization of Emotions," *Psychological Bulletin*, 110, no. 3 (1991), pp. 426-50;

In English, phonetic tones, mainly intonations, are important for expressing joy. These tones are noticeable at the end of a sentence, on stressed syllables, or in general pronunciation. Phonetic tone is a means of emotionally enriching communication through the combination of elements such as pitch, intonation contour, tempo, and pauses in speech. In English, this means: emphasizes words, determines the logical structure of a sentence, and expresses an emotional state [Cruttenden Alan, 1997; 26].

The research is grounded in the framework of emotional prosody, which investigates how affective states are conveyed through vocal attributes. According to Scherer, emotional states affect multiple subsystems of speech production, including respiration, phonation, and articulation. The manifestation of joy, being a high-arousal and positive-valence emotion, is typically associated with specific prosodic patterns that differ significantly from those of neutral or negative emotional states [Scherer, 2003; 227-256].

Prosodic Correlates of Joy

1. Fundamental Frequency (Pitch) - Joyful speech is characterized by an elevated fundamental frequency, increased pitch range, and frequent pitch modulations. These features reflect the speaker's physiological arousal and cognitive engagement. In spontaneous speech, joyful utterances exhibit a greater number of intonational pitch accents, particularly rising contours, which are perceptually associated with enthusiasm and excitement.

2. Intensity (Loudness) - Acoustic intensity, measured in decibels, tends to be higher in joyful speech. Speakers use increased loudness not only to reflect inner emotional states but also to signal social intent—such as celebration, approval, or encouragement. Loudness variation is often dynamic and localized around emotionally salient words or phrases.

3. Temporal Features (Speech Rate and Duration) - Speech produced in a joyful state is typically faster in tempo, reflecting the speaker's heightened energy level. However, key lexical items or interjections may be lengthened, serving to emphasize the emotional content. This duality faster overall speech with localized elongation is a distinctive feature of joy-related prosody.

4. Rhythm and Stress Patterns - Joyful speech often exhibits a more regular rhythmic structure, with a tendency toward trochaic or emphatic stress patterns. Stress placement becomes a tool for emotional highlighting, allowing the speaker to draw attention to positive or exciting elements within the utterance.

Paralinguistic and Non-Lexical Indicators

1. Laughter is arguably the most universal vocal expression of joy. It is non-lexical, non-syntactic, and produced via coordinated respiratory and laryngeal activity. Phonetically, laughter consists of plosive-like bursts, voiced/unvoiced alternation, and variable pitch contours. It may co-occur with speech or occur as a stand-alone utterance, serving both emotional and social-regulatory functions [Rainer Banse, Klaus Scherer, 1996; 614].

RESULTS

In English, the following phonetic features are noticeable in speech when expressing positive emotions such as joy (happiness, excitement):

1. Rising Intonation. In this case, speech expressing joy is usually presented in a higher pitch than normal speech. The speaker's voice rises. The beginning of the tone, especially at the end of the sentence, ends with a rising intonation.

Example: *"That's amazing!"* — The tone rises, especially in the "-zing!" part.

"You're here? That's great!" (Could it be so?!).

"I can't believe it!" (I can't believe it!).

"You did it!" (You did it!). - In the following units, the final words "great:", "it", "it" are pronounced with a high tone.

Example: Submerged in his greatcoat, the mysterious automobilist seemed, himself, to marvel at the surprises of life. "Wonderful! *That's amazing!* Strange!" he repeated to himself constantly [O Henry, 1995; 279].

2. Fall-rise intonation - This intonation is used to express unexpected joy or enthusiasm. The tone first falls and then rises. Examples: *"Really?!"* *"No way!"* *"Guess what!"*.

Example: "It sounded like Naomi".

"Really!" said Mary "I supposed some other people do sound like her, my love" [Ruth Rendell, 108].

3. Exclamatory tone - This form is used to convey a joyful situation more strongly to the listener, and it is a short, energetic emphasis. Examples: *"Wow!"* *"Yay!"*. *"That's fantastic!"*. For example: "You knew him personally, then. Not much regret, hey? All you say is poor Kathleen. Now what about this movie that you and Fleisher wrote?"

"Oh yes, tell us," said Polly. "What was all that about? Two minds like yours, collaborating — wow!" [Saul Bellow, 1975; 91].

4. Expressive tone - The words are pronounced in a cheerful rhythm, quickly and forcefully. Often, the rhythm of the sentence conveys strong emotion. For example: *"I'm so exciting!"* *"This is the best day ever!"* *"Can't wait to see it!"*.

5. Interjections - When a person is overjoyed, they sometimes utter shortened words or sounds. For example: "Yippee!". "Hooray!". "Whoo-hoo!" [Rainer Banse, Klaus Scherer, 1996; 614]. Phonetic tone performs the following communicative functions:

- Expresses mood - the listener can immediately sense whether the speaker is happy or excited through the tone of the speech.
- Increases social intimacy – a warm and cheerful tone makes the conversation more friendly.
- Creates freedom in informal settings – a cheerful tone is different from formal speech and expresses an informal environment [Cruttenden Alan, 1997; 3].

CONCLUSION

Phonetic tones, especially intonation, play an important role in expressing emotional states such as joy in English. High pitch, rising intonation, fast tempo, and expressive accents convey a person's joy, excitement, and sincerity to the listener. Mastering this aspect in language learning helps to make communication natural and sincere.

Research shows that happy speech is usually characterized by a higher pitch, a wider tonal range, a faster tempo and a louder volume. Through these acoustic features, the speaker clearly conveys his or her positive mood to the listener and enriches the speech emotionally. Phonetic tones are used to determine not only emotions, but also the intention and content of communication. This provides a basis for considering phonetic tones as a relevant tool not only linguistically, but also communicatively and pragmatically.

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