

THE PROSODY AND THE VOICED/VOICELESS CONSONANT CORRELATION IN RUSSIAN

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this paper is to demonstrate the influence of the tonal accent on the behavior of the voiceless consonants in certain consonantal positions. A syntagm may have an accent on its second member (*ves' dén' 'the whole day'*), it may have a stress only on its first member (*vés' den'*) or the both words may be stressed equally (*vés' dén'*). In the second and third cases it is possible to occur a voiceless consonant before the voiced one: *vés' den'* [s@d@], *vés' dén'* [s@d@]. The situation with the proposition-word combinations, with the composita end even with the prefixal words is similar. Based on the speech material the following rule can be formulated: by increasing the strength of the boundary the probability of a voiceless realisation of a voiceless consonant preceding a voiced one is decreased.

1. In accordance with phonotactic rules in the Russian language as well as in a number of other Slavic languages, voiceless consonants preceding the voiced ones become voiced. This occurs both in the middle of a word *kos'ba 'mowing'* [z@b] *pastbishche 'pasture'* [zdb@], *otbor 'selection'* [db]), or a stress unit (*ot goroda 'from the city'* [dg], *k domu 'to the house'* [gd], *vot by 'it would be nice to'* [db]), as well as at the boundary between two words making up a syntagm, unless they are separated by a pause (*u nas doma 'at our house'* [zd], *nash gorod 'our city'* [Cg], *ves' den' 'the whole day'* [z@d], *tak govor'at 'they say so'* [gg], *tors bortsy 'the wrestler's trunk'* [zb], *kurs dollara 'the dollar's rate'* [zd], *vkus granata 'the taste of granate'* [zg]). The rules governing the behavior of voiceless consonants are well known since they have been described in numerous studies. However, while elaborating those rules, experts have never focused on the prosodic structure of utterances, least of all on the position of the stress within a sentence. In describing the contemporary Russian speech our research postulates that one has to take into consideration the stress features of each member of a syntagm in which a consonant group ending with a voiced consonant occurs at the end of a word.

A syntagm may have a stress on its second member (*ves' dén' 'the whole day'*), thus making the first word a proclitic; it can, however, have a stress only on its first member (*vés' den'*), in this case the second word becomes an enclitic; or else both words may be stressed (*vés' dén'*). In the second and third cases it is possible to occur a voiceless consonant before the voiced one:

vés' den' [s'd'], *vés' dén'* [s'd']. The occurrence of a secondary stress on the second member of a lexical or a grammatical unit (be it a syntagm, preposition + substantive group, a compound or an enclitic or proclitic) is a factor affecting the normal order of relationships. This position (unless there is a pause in between) can hinder regressive assimilation of consonants at word or morpheme boundary: it is possible to occur a voiceless consonant before the voiced one. For the first time it was mentioned in Paufoshima, Agaronov [1].

The tonal accent on the first member of the combination of words make possible the pronunciation of the voiceless consonant before the voiced one: *vés' den' 'the whole day'* - [s@d@] and [z@d@], *vés' god 'the whole year'* - [s@g] and [z@g], *vés' bank 'the whole bank'* - [s@b] and [z@b], etc. The both variants are in like manner possible in this position.

The probability of the pronunciation of the voiceless consonant preceding a voiced one increases if both components of the combination of words are stressed: *vés' dén'* - [s@d@], *vés' bánk-* [s@b]. Compare the accents and the sound pronunciations in following phrases:

Oni prozhili z'd'es ves' god? ('Have they lived here for the whole year?') - [s@g] with rising accent on *ves'* и rising-falling on *god*.

Oni prozhili z'd'es ves' god. (They lived here for the whole year) - [s@g] with two falling accents on *ves'* and *god*.

Eto novyi kurs dollara. ('It is a new rate of dollar') - [sd] with two falling accents on *kurs* and on *dollar*.

2. If the first component of the words combination has the multinomial cluster at the end, the difficult consonant group may occur on the words boundary. It makes possible the pronunciation of the voiceless consonant before the voiced one: *tekst Biblii 'the Bible text'* [kst#b], *gorst' zeren 'handful of grain'* [rs@t@#z@], etc. In such a case they are pronounced with an accent on the first part or on the both components: *tékst Biblii* and *tékst Bíblii*. If no tonal accent falls on the first word, the voiceless consonants are changed into the voiced ones and the consonant ellipsis is possible: *tekst Biblii* [gzb], *gorst' zeren* [zz@].

3. The same situation is observed with the etymologically voiced sounds. If the accent falls on the second word the cluster is voiced: *noz' bráta 'the brother's knife'* [n@z'br@t@]. If the accent moves to the first word the voiced consonants may be pronounced without voice: *nózh brata* [C#z@]. If there is no accent falling on the first word and the consonants are voiced,

the ellipsis is possible: *drozd zap'el* 'the thrush began to sing' [z:].

4. It is known that the prepositions may have an accent as well as grammatically independent words. In the following sentences the prepositions are marked with contrastive accent: *On jexal v gorog, a ne íz goroda* ('He moved not to the city but out of the city'). *Vam luchshe projexat' pód mostom* ('It's better to go under the bridge'). In the situation when the prepositions are stressed the combination of the voiceless consonant with the preceding voiced one is possible.

The prominence of the preposition may give rise to the alternation of the voiced consonants with the voiceless ones in the position before the vowels and sonorants of the next word: *pód oknom* 'under the window' - [t], *pód mostom* 'under the bridge' - [t].

5. The same situation may occur with the consonants on the stems's boundaries of the composita in such cases as *Gosb'udžhet* 'the State budget', *Roszoloto* 'the Russian Gold', etc. The cluster is completely voiced ([zbⓈ], [zz]) if the stress falls only on the second stem. The idea that the composita and the abbreviations can be pronounced with one stress (without secondary accent) is not generally accepted. For the first time it was formulated in Kalentchouk, Kasatkina [2]. According to our point of view the composita and the abbreviations may be pronounced in three different ways: with the stress on the second stem (*gorsád* 'the city garden'), with the stress on both stems (*górsád*) or the only accent may fall on the first stem (*górsad*). In two latter cases the voiceless consonant may be pronounced before the voiced one: *Gosb'udžhet* [sbⓈ], *Roszoloto* [sz].

6. It's known that the morpheme boundary «prefix + root» is the closest of mentioned ones. The prefixes may be marked by accent as well: *Nu i uxa! Běspodobnaja!* ('What fish soup! Delicious!'). When the prefix has an extra stress, the voiceless consonant may be used before the voiced one: *be[s]dejatel'nyj* equally with *be[z]dejatel'nyj* 'inactive', etc.

The application of the above mentioned rule concerning a voiceless realisation of a voiceless consonant preceding a voiced one is not obligatory but only a highly probable one. The following rule can be formulated: by increasing the strength of the boundary the probability of a voiceless pronunciation of a consonant preceding a voiced one is decreasing. The word boundary being the least strong, the occurrence of a voiceless consonant preceding a voiced one is the most probable (if the above-mentioned prosodic condition is met). The strongest boundary being between the prefix and the root of the word, the occurrence of a voiceless consonant preceding a voiced one is the least probable. Uncovering further cases of this kind (even if they are rare and individual) would confirm the existence of the discussed tendency in the phonetic system of the present-day Russian speech.

REFERENCES

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