



**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MELODIC, TEMPORAL AND
DYNAMIC VARIATION TYPES OF CONCESSION CLAUSES WITH
TWO OR MORE SYNTAGMS IN ENGLISH AND AZERBAIJANI**

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Abstract

The article deals with the comparison of melodic, temporal and dynamic variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani. The research is based on the comparative-typological and experimental-phonetic methods; hence both of the languages belong to different language families and different language systems. A lot of examples from both languages have been chosen to carry out an experiment. Here, mainly, sentences with two-syntagms and three-syntagms have been chosen, depending on the purpose of the research. When the results of experiment became apparent, the part of the material belonging to English has been compared with the part that belongs to Azerbaijani. For this purpose, PRAAT computer program has been used.

Keywords: *variation, concession, melodic, dynamic, temporal, acoustic, parameters, intonation, communication.*

**İNGİLİZCE VE AZERBAIJAN DİLİNDE İKİ VEYA DAHA FAZLA YAN
CÜMLELİ BİRLEŞİK CÜMLELERİNİN MELODİK, ZAMANSAL VE
DİNAMİK VARYASYON TÜRLERİNİN KARŞILAŞTIRILMALI ANALİZİ**

Özet

Makale, İngilizce ve Azerice'de iki veya daha fazla yan cümleli uzlaştırma cümlelerinin melodik, zamansal ve dinamik varyasyon türlerinin karşılaştırılmalı analizini ele almaktadır. Araştırma, karşılaştırmalı-tipolojik ve deneysel-fonetik yöntemlere dayanmaktadır; dolayısıyla her iki dilde farklı dil gurupları ve farklı dil sistemlerine ait olmaktadır. Deneyi gerçekleştirmek için her iki dilden de bir suru örnek seçilmiştir. Burada, başlıca, araştırmanın amacına bağlı olarak iki ve üç dizim içeren cümleler seçilmiştir. Deney sonuçları belirginleştğinde, İngilizceye ait sonuçlar Azericeye ait sonuçlarla karşılaştırılmıştır. Bu karşılaştırmayı yapmak için PRAAT bilgisayar programı kullanılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Varyasyon, İmtiyaz, Melodik, Dinamik, Zamansal, Akustik, Parametreler, Tonlama, İletişim.*

1. Introduction

To learn sentence intonation experimental-phonetic method is widely used as it gives an opportunity of expressing certain ideas about its characteristic features and of describing it



properly. The prosodic structure of a sentence is formed on the combination of the following acoustic parameters: the development of the tone, the strength of the voice, the development of the pronunciation speed, timbre and pause. Acoustic characteristic of intonation is formed by the frequency, the vibration amplitude of vocal cords, muscle strength of speech organs and different pronunciation timbers.

2. Scope of the Study

In modern linguistics experimental or experimental-phonetic methods play an important role. Thanks to experimental research works there were found links between grammar and phonetics. So, the topic of the article being directly connected with grammar and phonetics, we have had to look through different viewpoints of specialists. One of the Russian linguists Peshkovskiy in his researches expressed his attitude to the relationship between syntactic constructions and intonation. From his viewpoint intonation is a helping syntactic means. It is evident that in linguistics, the thought “intonation and grammatical means compensate each-other in the formation of a sentence” belongs just to him. He writes:

“The more clearly any syntactic meaning is expressed, the weaker its expression by means of intonation can be, and visa-versa, when the intonation expression is stronger, the grammatical expression becomes weaker.” (Peshkovskiy, 1960). In the article intonation characteristics of a sentence is said to be closely connected with its semantic-syntactic structure. The most successful way of determining similar and different intonation characteristics of compared concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani is carrying out an experimental-phonetic research, taking into consideration the semantic-syntactic structure and stylistic characteristic of the same sentence types. The syntagmatic structure of a sentence is very important in the analysis of intonation characteristics of a sentence. It is also of great importance if a sentence is one-syntagm or multi-syntagms, if a syntagm is used in pre- or post position, if a syntagm is complete from semantic point of view and so on.

One of the linguists Scherba accepted the syntagm as a combination of meaning and material expression. He wrote:

“I call the phonetic unit which expresses semantic unity, consisting of both one rhythmic group and combination of some of them formed in speech-thought process, a syntagm”. (Scherba, 1958).

According to Scherba syntagm consists of words, word combinations and even group of word combinations, too. Syntagm is not only able to part from the utterance, but it also forms them. In case syntagms can be separated from utterance, its being added to speech level is quite natural. In



comparison with words and word combinations, syntagm is not constant, unchangable in speech, it is a variational structure. Only in speech context syntagm acquires full meaning. The meaning of the syntagm depends on the menaing of the whole, and its semantics can change depending on the intention of the speaker. The main feature of syntagmatic division of the sentence is that a syntagm is indivisible from intonation point of view. In the article syntagm is used in the meaning which was used by Scherba, i.e. syntagm is used as a whole which is indivisible from intonation point of view.

Veysalli writes about the role of sentence stress – a main part of intonation in the division of a syntactic whole: “... sentence stress turns a sentence into a whole, ... divides the sentences into syntagms”. (Veysalli, 2007).

3. Research Methodology

As the article is devoted to the elements of two languages belonging to different language families and having different systems, there has been a demand to use different methods, including comparative and experimental methods. In this research we have used comparative typological and experimental-analysis methods in the investigation of comparative analysis of melodic variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani.

4. Experimental Phonetic Analysis of melodic variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani

The learning of variation contour of a sentence can give strong incentive to the solution of variation problem. The main component of melody is in active connection with syntactic structures and a lexical construction. Linguistic and extra-linguistic factors such as the length, synntactic structure, place and the number of different stress types of utterance, intonation-context partitioning, context and condition, psychological condition of the speaker and his intention, as well as individual features of his speech can influence to the realization of variation of intonation. Like other units of language intonation contour can undergo variation, i.e., it can be expressed in either sounding, or in variants, realisations from semantic point of view. The variation of sounding creates intonation types and the variation of intonation contour guarantees the colourfulness of speech.

Yunusov who investigates intonation characteristics of composite complex sentences writes: “... intonation structure of these units is always closely connected with grammar. The intonation structure of composite complex sentences as well as its grammatical characteristics is the expression of general compliance of language functions” (Yunusov, 2008).

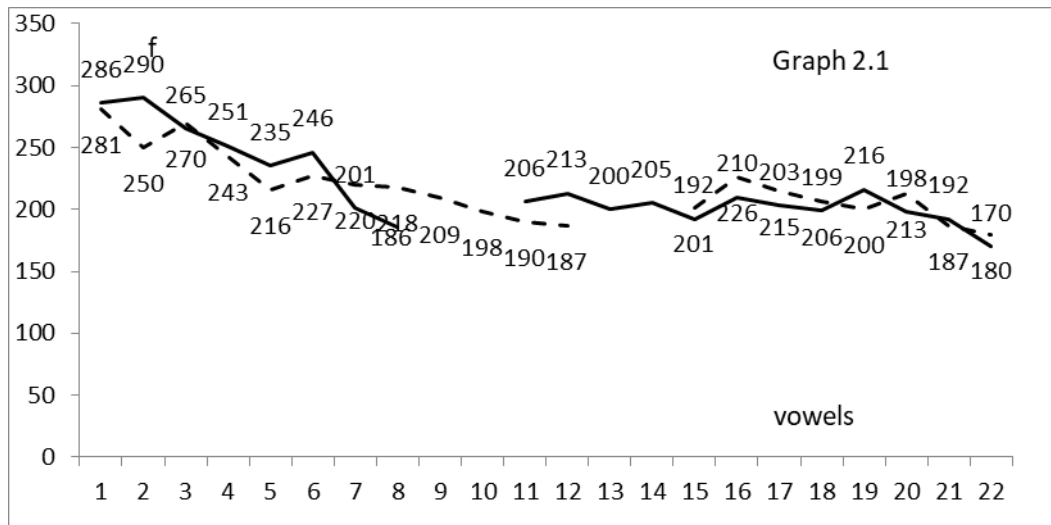


In the article which is connected with the solution of the intonation division, both syntactical composition and syntactic structure of syntagms should be paid attention. In this case there should be chosen such sentences that they could express different meanings depending on the division the sentence. In this division the place of the syntagm stress which plays the leading role must be taken into consideration.

Composite complex sentences contain main syntagms - principal and subordinate clauses. In composite complex sentences with concession clauses which have become complex with numerations, comparisons, explanations, principal and subordinate clause components are characterised by their division into constant syntagms.

The analysis of melodic graph of the English sentence */Though war and danger were in store / war and danger might not befall for months to come/* [lou `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 w8: 9n st6:, `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 ma9t n6t b9`f6:l f6: m0n4s t7 k0m] (*Baxmayaraq ki, müharibə və təhlükə gözlənilirdi, müharibə və təhlükənin baş verməsi aylarla vaxt apara bilərdi*) shows that the sentence has been divided into two syntagms. Both subordinate clause (progreident syntagm) which is used in preposition, and the principal sentence which acts as a terminal syntagm have independent intonation contour: in both syntagms the melody peak has been registered in the initial syntagm. In the first syntagm melody size is 286-186 hs, in the second syntagm it is 241-170 hs.

In the sentence */War and danger might not befall for months to come /though war and danger were in store/* [`w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 ma9t n6t b9`f6:l f6: m0n4s t7 k0m, lou `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 w8: 9n st6:] (*Müharibə və təhlükənin baş verməsi aylarla vaxt apara bilərdi, baxmayaraq ki, müharibə və təhlükə gözlənilirdi*) the principal clause is used as a progreident syntagm, the subordinate clause acts as a terminal syntagm. Inside the compound whole the position of principal and subordinate clauses doesn't affect the realisation of intonation contour in them. In progreident syntagm melody is 281-187 hs, but in the terminal syntagm it is 216-187 hs. In the terminal syntagm average absolute value of tone frequency is 170 hs. In the initial syntagm average tone frequency is 225hs, while in the terminal one it is equal to 204 hs. (see: gr. 2.1, table 2.1, 2.2).



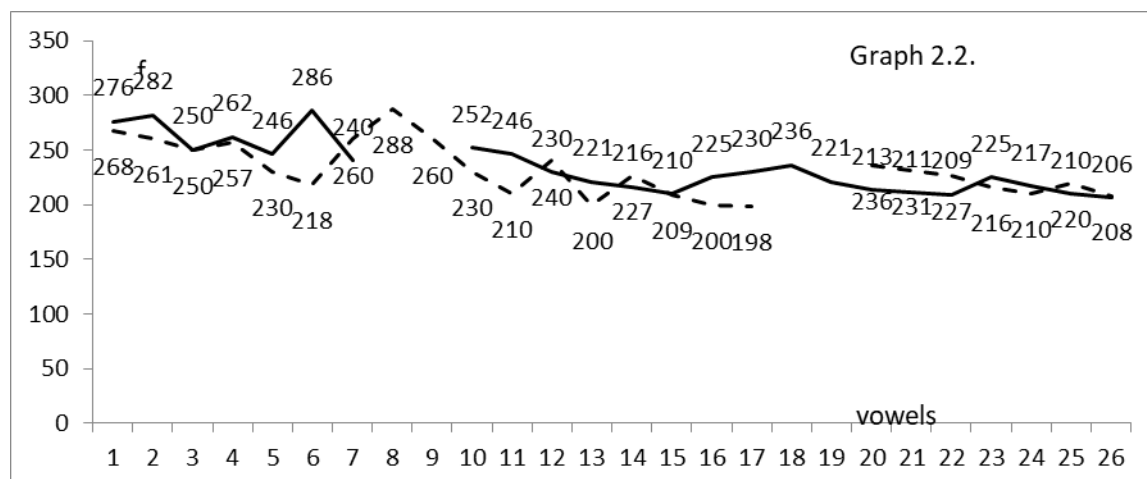
Graph 2.1

Melodic indicators of the sentences

[lou `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 w8: 9n st6:, `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 ma9t n6t b9`f6:l f6: m0n4s t7 k0m]

[`w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 ma9t n6t b9`f6:l f6: m0n4s t7 k0m, lou `w6: 5nd `de9nd=7 w8: 9n st6:]

In the Azerbaijani language the sentences /İndi boz ay olsa da/adamların üzü bahar səması kimi açıq idi// and /Adamların üzü bahar səması kimi açıq idi/indi boz ay olsa da// are two-syntagms. In the first sentence the subordinate clause is in preposition, in the second one it is realised in the postposition. In the first sentence main tone frequency according to syntagms is 276-240 hs, 252-206 hs, in the second one it is 268-198 hs, 238-208 hs. In the analysed sentences melody peak in both syntagms comes in the initial syllable. Melody peak in progredient syntagms is 276-288 hs, in terminal syntagms it is equal to 252-238 hs. (see: gr. 2.2, table 2.4, 2.5).



Graph 2.2

Melodic indicators of the sentences

/İndi boz ay olsa da / adamların üzü bahar səması kimi açıq idi//

/Adamların üzü bahar səması kimi açıq idi / indi boz ay olsa da//

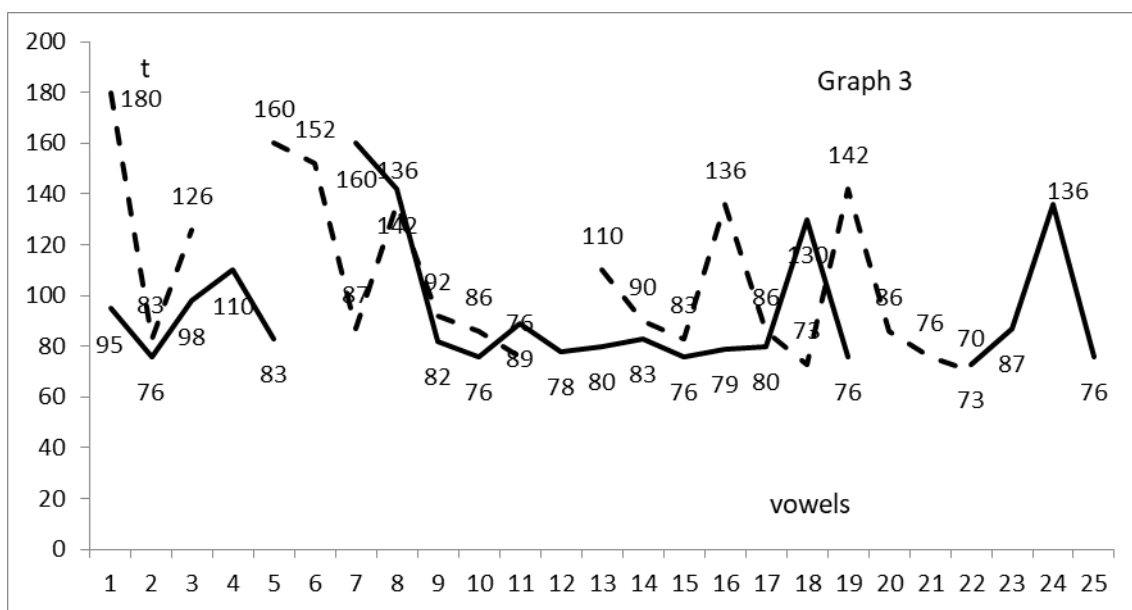
5. Experimental Phonetic Analysis of temporal variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani

The pronunciation speed of a word, most of all, depends directly on the type of sentence, the contents of the statement, and the tempo of the highest level of a language - syntagm and statement. In all levels tempo depends on the number of the preceding level units which are included in intonation unit. The tempo of the word depends on the number of the syllables it contains, the tempo of syntagms depends on the rhythm and number of phonetic words in it, and the tempo of the statement depends on the scope and number of syntagms in it. The following English sentences consist of 3 syntagms:

/We enjoyed our trip, /although the weather was very windy and rainy/ to the mountain// [wi: 9n`d=69d au7 tr9p, 6:l`17u 17 `we17 w7z ver9 w9nd9 5nd re9ni, t7 17 `maunt7n];

/I think, you, while I admire your courage, ought not to go on this dangerous trip// [a9 492k, ju: wa9l a9 7d`ma97 j6: `k0r9d=, `6:t n6t t7 g7- 6n 19s `de9nd=7r7s tr9p];

In these sentences time parameter faces variation in the following diapasons according to syntagms: the 1st sentence - 95-83 m/sec, 147-101 m/sec, 73-76 m/sec; the 2nd sentence 180-126 m/sec, 160-76 m/sec, 110-75 m/sec; the 3rd sentence - 79-80 m/sec, 86-90 m/sec, 70-69 m/sec (see: graph 3).



Graph 3

Temporal indicators of the sentences

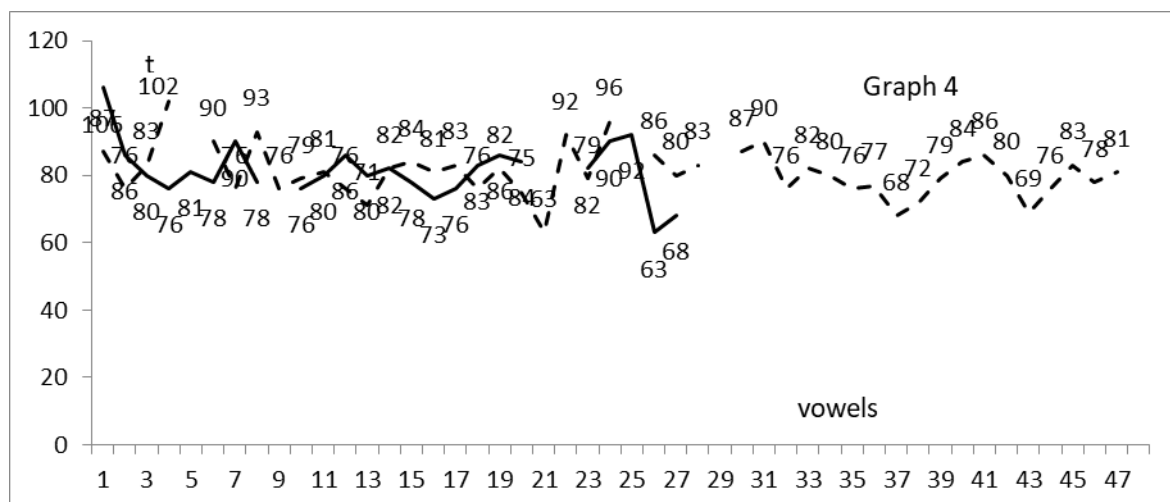
[wi: 9n`d=69d au7 tr9p /6:l 17u 17 `we17 w7z ver9 w9nd9 5nd re9ni /t7 17 `maunt7n]

[a9 492k, ju: /wa9l a9 7d`ma97 j6: `k0r9d= ^6:t n6t t7 g7- 6n 19s `de9nd=7r7s tr9p]

Let's analyse examples from the Azerbaijan language. In these multisyntagm sentences the syntagms including subordinate clauses are realised in mid-position:

/Lakin gənc işdən çıxmadı, çünki satıcı deyingən olsa da/düz adam idi/ və sözünün üstündə dururdu// and /Görürsünüz/Cəsuru nə qədər özünüzdən uzaq tutmaq istəsəniz də / ya özü / ya da onu xatırladacaq insanlar qarşınıza çıxır//.

The indicators of time parameters in these sentences are expressed like this: the 1st sentence - 106-78 m/sec, 76-84 m/sec, 82-68 m/sec; the 2nd sentence 87-102 m/sec, 90-96 m/sec, 86-83 m/sec, 87-81 m/sec (see: graph 4).



Graph 4

Temporal indicators of the sentences

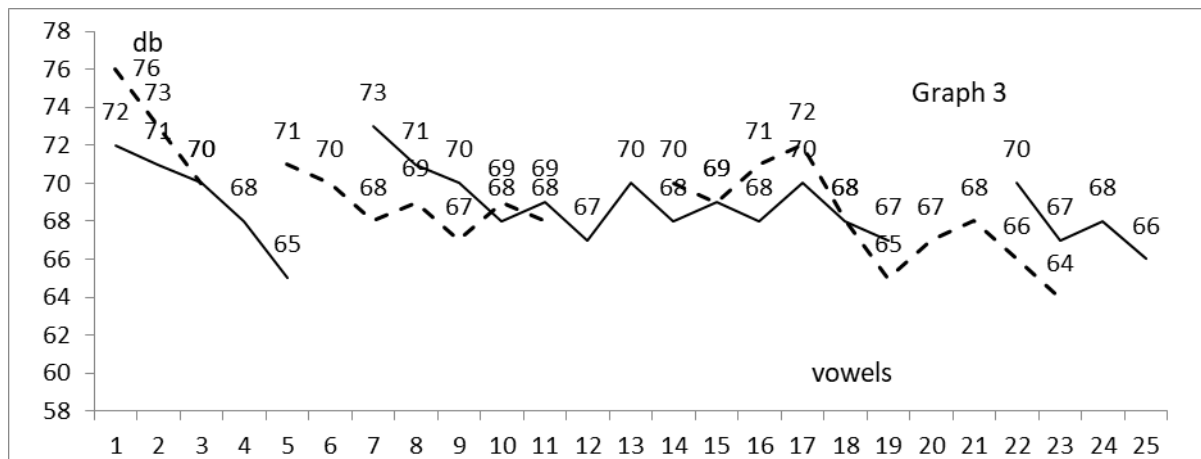
/Lakin gənc işdən çıxmadı, çünki satıcı deyingən olsa da / düz adam idi//

/Görürsünüz/Cəsuru nə qədər özünüzdən uzaq tutmaq istəyənsiz də/ya özü/ya da onu xatırladacaq insanlar qarşınıza çıxır//

6. Experimental Phonetic Analysis of dynamic variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms in English and Azerbaijani

Intensity is one of the acoustic parameters helping to differentiate language sounds from one-another. According to Zinder “the main function of intensity is to differentiate any part of utterance, though here melody plays an important role” (Zinder, 1979). Zinder thinks “the intensity of a vowel, in a whole, depends on the intensity of utterance, and also on its position in connection with the word and sentence stress. In dynamic stress, the stressed vowel is more intense than unstressed one, or vice-versa (Zinder, 1979).

The following sentences contain three syntagms: /We enjoyed our trip, /although the weather was very windy and rainy/ to the mountain// [wi: 9n`d=69d au7 tr9p, 6:1 17u 17 `we17 w7z ver9 w9nd9 5nd re9ni, t7 17 `maunt7n]; /I think, you, while I admire your courage, ought not to go on this dangerous trip// [a9 492k, ju: wa9l a9 7d`ma97 j6: `k0r9d=, `6:t n6t t7 g7- 6n 19s `de9nd=7r7s tr9p]; /“It would be of very little use without my shoulders”, “... /and even if my head would go through”/, thought poor Alice// [9t w-d bi: very `I9tl ju:s w9l`aut ma9 `37uld7z, .../5nd `i:v7n 9f ma9 hed w-d g7- 4ru: /46:t p-7 719s]. In all three sentences the minimum intensity is at the end of the terminal syntagm: 66 - 64 - 62 db. Intensity according to syntagms faces variation in the following diapason: in the 1st sentence - 72-65 db, 73-67 db, 70-66 db; in the 2nd sentence 76-70 db, 71-68 db, 70-64 db; in the 3rd sentence 70-69 db, 68-66 db, 65-62 db. (see: graph 3).



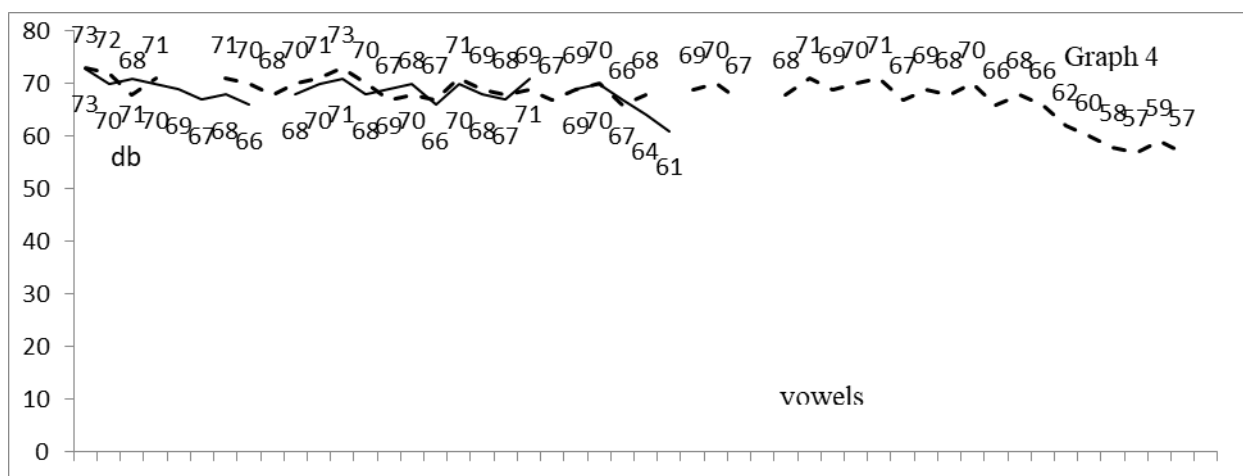
Graph 3

Dynamic indicators of the sentences

[wi: 9n`d=69d au7 tr9p / 6:l`17u 17`we17 w7z ver9 w9nd9 5nd re9ni / t7 17`maunt7n]

[a9 492k, ju: / wa9l a9 7d`ma97 j6: `k0r9d= / `6:t n6t t7 g7- 6n 19s `de9nd=7r7s tr9p]

In the following multi-syntagm sentences, the syntagms consisting of a subordinate clause are realised in mid-position: */Lakin gənc işdən çıxmadı, çünki satıcı deyingən olsa da/düz adam idi/və sözüünün üstündə dururdu//* and */Görürsünüz / Cəsuru nə qədər özünüzdən uzaq tutmaq istəsəniz də / ya özü / ya da onu xatırladacaq insanlar qarşınıza çıxır//*. The oscillographic analysis of intensity indicators shows that the amplitudes with the following indicators in the syntagms of the sentences go farther from zero line: in the 1st sentence they are 73-66 db, 68-71 db, 69-61 db; in the 2nd sentence its indicators are 73-71 db, 71-68 db, 69-67 db, 68-57 db. In both sentences the minimum intensity is recorded at the last syllables of the last syntagms - 61 db və 57 db (see: graph 4).



Graph 4



Dynamic indicators of the sentences

/Lakin gənc işdən çıxmadı, çünki satıcı deyingən olsa da / düz adam idi//

/Görürsünüz / Cəsuru nə qədər özünüzdən uzaq tutmaq istəsəniz də / ya özü / ya da onu xatırladacaq insanlar qarşınıza çıxır//

7. Conclusion

Experimental analysis of the materials of the above compared English and Azerbaijani languages helps us to come to the following conclusions:

While comparing the sentences from Modern English and Azerbaijani, involved in the experiment, it becomes evident that intonation contour development of complex constructions (in which subordinate clause component is realised) in pre-position doesn't strongly differ from those which are used in post-position. Even the analysis of the acoustic indicators of three parameters (temporal, melody, dynamic parameters) show that in the analysed sentences, in comparison with the terminal syntagms, progredient syntagms are pronounced with higher melody. This fact proves that both in progredient and terminal syntagms the intonation of completeness is not realised. The cadence law demanding the weakening of acoustic parameters at the end of the syntagm is wholly reflected in the investigated examples.

While investigating intonation features of composite complex sentences with concession clauses in both languages the followings have become evident: intonation has a certain autonomy, i.e., its emergence, realization doesn't depend on concrete lexical material and certain syntactic structure, and the place of the components of compound syntactic whole. Just the very autonomy of intonation gives a chance to the same intonation contour to appear in different syntactic constructions and sentence types. The minimal indicator of melody in composite sentences with concession clauses is recorded at the last syllable of the terminal syntagm. The last syllable of the progredient syntagm takes comparatively higher place in the melody structure of a whole sentence.

The analysis of the time parameter of the intonation of composite complex sentences with concession clauses consisting of two or more syntagms shows that, time parameter of intonation has variational features, too. It is characterised with the followings:

Time parameter becomes in mid-level at the end; it increases seriously on the rhema-center of a sentence and at the end of the terminal syntagms it is weakening.

While analysing the dynamic variation of concession clauses with two or more syntagms, it becomes evident that the analysis of dynamic structure of terminal syntagm, in general, reflects

that its intensity goes in falling direction at the end. The summit of intensity of analysed sentences is noted at the beginning of progreident and terminal syntagms.

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