

THE STUDY OF REFUSAL UTTERANCES PROSODIC ORGANIZATION

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***Abstract.** This work studies the various components of prosody, their role in communication, and the benefits of studying prosody for language learners and professionals. Various components of prosody used in refusal utterances as one of the most widely used type of emotional utterances, and the ways in which they contribute to their interpretation and impact are outlined in the work. Some of the latest research and developments in the field of prosodic organization of refusal utterances, and their potential implications for language learning, communication, and conflict resolution are discussed.*

***Key words:** refusal utterances, prosodic organization, intonation means, English dialogue speech, language means interaction.*

The study of prosodic organization of emotional utterances is an important and rapidly growing field with numerous practical applications. By understanding how people use prosody to convey emotions, we can better understand how emotions are expressed and recognized in language, and gain insights into the cognitive and social factors that shape emotional utterances production. That is why many linguists and phoneticians in Ukraine (Kalyta, 2007, Kalyta, 2016, Taranenko & Schaefer, 2018) and abroad (Brazil, 1997) are focused on the study of language means interaction in the expression of emotional utterances in general and refusal utterances (Sokyrskya 2012, Sokyrskya 2013) in particular as one of widely spread types of emotional utterances.

It is worth mentioning that prosodic organization of speech has important implications for fields beyond language learning and communication, such as speech therapy, cognitive neuroscience and artificial intelligence. Researchers in these fields recognise the importance of prosody in speech production and perception and are working to develop new tools and techniques for studying and understanding this aspect of language.

In human communication the way we say something is as important as what we say. That is why means of segmental and suprasegmental levels influence the way the utterance formed and perceived. The prosodic organization of refusal utterances can convey the speaker's attitude and the degree of politeness or directness and various features of speech can be used to express a refusal.

One important aspect of the prosodic structure of refusal utterances is the use of intonation. Intonation refers to the rising and falling patterns of pitch in speech, and can convey a wide range of meanings depending on the context. In refusal utterances, intonation can be used to convey certainty, hesitancy, emphasis or politeness. For example, a refusal uttered with a rising nuclear tone may indicate hesitation or uncertainty as if the speaker is leaving some room for negotiation. This is often accompanied by a stressed syllable on the word "sorry". This can be illustrated by the following utterances:

"No!" I *bellowed*, "I *don't*. *Sorry*." (Fielding, 10).

Why *couldn't* she stay in the kitchen and let him slug his way through this one? With a big fake smile, Luther said, "*Sorry* (1), *but we're not* *buying* *one* *this year*" (2) (Grisham, 33).

 (1) ... (2)

A refusal uttered with a falling tone may indicate more certainty or firmness. This can be followed by a stressed syllable on such words as "can't", "couldn't", "no" or the negative word "not". Prolongation of certain words or syllables in a refusal utterance, which is often used in combination with falling intonation, can emphasize the refusal and makes it sound more emphatic. This can be illustrated by the following example:

1) "I *can't*, *really*. *I would sooner not*.// I *have* a *lot* of *work* to *do*." (Wilde, 2013, p. 21).

2) MABEL CHILTERN. *Oh! I hope you are not going to leave me all alone with Lord Goring? Especially at such an early hour in the day.*

LORD CAVERSHAM: *I am a* *frail* *I can't take him with me to* *Downing Street*. *It is not the Prime Minister's day for seeing the unemployed* (Wilde, 2000, p. 74).

We can see how prosodic means intensify the meaning of the modal verb with the help of whether the utterance stress or nuclear tone, increasing the prominence of its pronunciation. The prolongation of initial consonants of the modal verb, its being under stress or actualized with a falling nuclear tone with an increased rate of its movement increases the emotional and pragmatic potential of the whole utterances.

Such prosodic means as pitch (a rise in pitch can indicate uncertainty or hesitation, while a fall in pitch can indicate a more firm refusal), loudness (an increase in loudness can indicate emphasis and assertiveness, while a decrease of

loudness can indicate a more polite or tentative refusal), tempo (a slower tempo can indicate reluctance or hesitation, while a faster tempo can indicate urgency or a desire to quickly end the interaction), pauses (longer pause before or after the refusal can indicate a more considered response or a desire to soften the impact of the refusal), stress (refers to the emphasis placed on certain words or syllables in speech), rhythm (can be used to emphasize or to soften the impact of the refusal) influence the organization and perception of an utterance.

Thus, the prosodic organization of a refusal utterance can convey important information about the speaker's attitude and intentions, vary depending on the specific context and the speaker's goals in refusing and help to shape the interaction between the speaker and the listener.

Refusal utterances, like many other types of speech acts, can be organized prosodically to convey different meanings or nuances. Prosody refers to the aspects of speech that go beyond the individual sounds of words and includes such elements: intonation, stress, rhythm, pitch, pauses, tempo and loudness. Understanding these prosodic features can help listeners interpret the speaker's intentions and respond appropriately.

By analyzing how people use prosody to convey emotions, researchers can identify specific features that listeners use to recognize emotional cues in speech. This knowledge can enhance the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms that can recognize emotions in speech.

Finally, studying prosodic organization can help us better understand the cultural and social factors that shape emotional utterances. Different cultures may have different norms for expressing emotions, and social factors such as gender, age, and the speaker's social status can also influence the way emotions are expressed and recognized. By studying prosodic organization of emotional utterances across different cultures and social groups, researchers can gain a better understanding of how these factors influence emotional expression and recognition of an utterance.

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