

**Abylai khan Kazakh International Relations
and World languages University**

**Topic: The Intonation
Structure of English
Sentences**

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Plan:

- 1) Intonation
- 2) Complex of Intonation
- 3) Approaches of Intonation



Intonation is complex unity of
non-segmental,
or prosodic features of speech:

1. *Melody, pitch of the voice;*
2. *Sentence stress;*
3. *Temporal characteristic (**duration, tempo, pausation**);*
4. *Rhythm;*
5. *Timbre (voice quality).*



Intonation

Intonation is the melody of the sentence. Intonation is created by changes in the pitch of the voice (the voice goes higher and lower; remains on the same level; rises or falls), by sentence stress (strong stress on important words; weak stress or no stress on less important words), and by rhythm (stressed syllables occur at more or less equal intervals).



The most important functions of Intonation are to distinguish types of sentences (statements, questions, commands, requests) and to divide sentences into sense groups. Also, intonation allows speakers to express various emotions.



Speech melody is a contour consisting of different tones. A **tone** is either no change in pitch (level tone) or a change in pitch (fall, rise...). **Pitch** is based upon the **rate of vibrations**(see above).

Tempo is the rate of an utterance (it can normal, fast be slow). Tempo of an utterance influences the **duration**of the syllables. The more durable the utterance is, the more prolonged are the sounds and the syllables (**prolongation**). There can never be constant prolongation of sounds or syllables, that's why there occur some pauses (**pausation**). The number of pauses influences the tempo of the utterance.

Timber is the quality of a musical sound, a special colouring of the speaker's voice. It's used to express various emotions and moods.



Sentence stress

Sentence stress is the governing stress in connected speech. All words have their individual stress in isolation. When words are connected into sense groups and sense groups are connected into sentences, content words keep their stress, and function words lose their stress. The most important words in the sentence receive stronger stress. The last stressed word in the sentence receives the strongest stress with the help of a fall or a rise.

Rhythm is the regular alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables. It is so typical of English phrase that the incorrect rhythm betrays the non English origin of the speaker even in cases of correct pronunciation.



There are two main approaches to the problem of intonation in Great Britain:

One is known as a contour analysis

Grammatical



The first is represented by a large group of phoneticians: **H. Sweet, D. Jones, G. Palmer** and others. It is traditional and widely used. According to this approach the smallest unit to which linguistic meaning can be attached is a tone-group . Their theory is based on the assumption that intonation consists of basic functional `blocks` . They pay much attention to these `blocks` but not to the way they are connected. Intonation is treated by them as a layer that is superimposed on the lexico-grammatical structure. In this the aim of communication determines the intonation structure not vice versa.



The grammatical approach to the study of intonation was worked out by M. Halliday. The main unit of intonation is a clause.

Intonation is a complex of three systemic variables

Tonality

Tonality marks the beginning and the end of a tone-group

Tonicity and Tone, which are connected with grammatical categories

Tonicity

Tonicity marks the focal point of each tone-group .

Tone

Tones can be primary and secondary.