

# The Historical Influence of Stress, Intonation and Pause on the Meaning of a Sentence

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**Abstract:** The language has specific structure and system, when a speaker of a language talks he/she puts the words in the correct order without paying attention. It is possible that the structure of a language categorize in different levels; phonic structure, lexical structure, and syntactic structure make the dividable levels of language which speakers of languages follow the all of the mentioned miniature structures during their talking and they have learnt method of using of these structures in their childhood and without any pause and concentration put the partials of phonic, phonological and patterns of combinational in correct order and use them correctly. In addition of mentioned miniature structures, another structure is in languages which speakers use that during the speaking according to their necessity but this structure is not based on structure of speech indeed, depending on time, situation and purpose make the speaker to use it until the word, phrase, clause and sentence state in special manner. It is a historical truth that has a long history as the human languages have. The words, phrases, clauses and sentences in addition of their grammatical meaning, also have particular and secondary meaning which known by stress on a word, specific intonation of a phrase, clause and sentence and pause between the mentioned parts. These situations take place based on our different purposes.

**Keywords:** Stress, Intonation, Secondary Meanings, Method of Declaration

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## 1. Introduction

As we know that all the people who are talking one language are not necessarily expert to that language. Many native speakers are not familiar to their language characteristics. So, it sounds necessary to discuss about some issues like stress on the words, intonation kind and pause of phrase, clause and sentence. The native speakers should know which using of stress on different words in a sentence is making different meanings; pause in different places, saying one sentence with different intonations results to different meanings.

While I was studying my B.A and M.A degrees in Dari language and literature department at Kabul University, and also right now that I am teaching in Dari language and literature department at Bamyan University, obviously I knew that in addition of language segments which we can write and read, there are many important facts that we should be careful during the speaking and reading. Some of these facts and issues are discussed in this paper. If we write about

many of issues which are important in the using of language it would become so long, briefly we discuss on somewhat those are mentioned in previous paragraph. It is remarkable which the mentioned points are not new issues, those have as long history as the languages have.

Speakers of every language do not feel necessity of knowing the influences of stress, intonation, and pause on the meanings of speech partials during their speaking. They learnt this skill step by step during their childhood and as they can put words and other parts in the correct order without any expertise and systematic knowledge; and can find and use appropriate alternatives from each category of its vertical axis when they need; it is also easy which word must be used for which purpose and how should be its stress and which intonation is needed and finally they know the pause between parts of speech.

But these natives, when read a text, how they know which where they pause and how much do that? Stress and intonation how should be? Certainly they will face to doubt for example in reading of "من بنگ نمی خورم میارید// من چنگ"

"نمی‌زنم نی آرید" readers have to pay attention on stress and pauses in addition of correct pronunciation of each word, until the meaning be known which poem is sung for. The language shouldn't be restricted into two parts (expressive and sense) the third part is also exists which its significance is remarkable.

Taking care about the correct using of stress, intonation, and pause is essential for both natives and non-natives during the reading of texts but its significance is more for non-natives because natives may use words, parts of speech with correct method after paying less attention on but those who are non-natives can't easily do that unless they exercise well.

The three essential characteristics (stress, intonation, and pause) roles are very eminent to transmit of special meanings and concepts; and it's the time to probe the correct using of these three eminent language components and try to contribute both natives and non-natives until they can use the language according to their purposes in awareness manner. While you know the remarked characteristics, you never sink in binary abyss (expressive and sense); and what you want will say, what you say, you will want.

## 2. The Historical Influence of Stress, Intonation and Pause on the Meaning of a Sentence

### 2.1. What the Stress Is

Stress is the intensity or slighness of a word or morpheme pronunciation which by using the stress on any of phrase components the meaning is influenced; this stress is said inflection stress because using the special stress on a word or morpheme is changing the meaning of words or morpheme for specific meaning and ever we change a word in specific form for a special meaning, this work is called inflection. Therefore, the stress which changes the meaning of a word also called inflection stress. [3, 13, 15]

One syllabic morphemes, or simple words have just one intensive stress and multisyllabic morphemes or compound words have both slight and intensive even middle stress. If the morpheme is multisyllabic usually in Dari language the stress come on the last syllable unless in some particular situation. But the grammatical type and class of morpheme is also important to indicate the stress type for example if the morpheme is a noun in another phrase its grammatical class is noun, the stress come on the last syllable and if its grammatical class is verb mostly the stress come on the penultimate syllable; of course, this is a rule in Dari language and might be in others or not. [2, 4]

In Dari language, if the morpheme belongs to the noun family you will see during the pronunciation which the stress come on what syllable for example pronounce the following words and pay attention:

قلم Qalam  
کتاب Kitâb  
پنسیل Pencil

During the pronunciation of the above words it is known well that in noun group, the stress come on the last syllable (lam, âb, cîl).

But during the pronunciation of the following morphemes you will see another truth:

برو Biraw  
خواند Xând  
رفت Raft

It is seen which in pronunciation of verb family, the stress come on penultimate syllable. One point is remarkable that in imperative verbs the stress come on the sign of emphasis for order; certainly it is also the penultimate syllable. [17]

#### 2.1.1. Emphatic Stress

This kind of stress is using to indicate the emphatic part. This stress has the maximum stress of air, vowel length, and pitch and by the ["] shows in phonetics. For example if in the sentence of «من کتاب می‌خواندم که زنگ تفریح زده شد». The stress come on the word of «من» like this write in phonetics ["man kitâb me xândam ki zangi tafreĥ zada shud]. [7, 9]

#### 2.1.2. The First Stress

The first stress has less intensity than the emphatic stress and by ['] is shown. The first stress normally shows on the sentence of «می‌رفتم» like this ['miraftam] in phonetics. [5]

#### 2.1.3. The Second Stress

The intensity of this stress is less than the first stress and it is shown by the sign of [,]. For example in English word of *photographic* which the secondary stress come on the first syllable and the first stress come on the third one which it is written in phonetics [ˌfotə ˈgræfɪk]. [1, 2, 5]

#### 2.1.4. The Third Stress

The third stress has the least intensity than the first and second ones which there is no sign in phonetics for the third stress. In the word of *photographic* both [fɪk] and [tə] parts have the third stress. [5, 6]

### 2.2. What the Intonation Is

Intonation is the pronunciation of a sentence in a specific manner in Dari language each sentence needs special intonation. The narrative sentence in addition of its grammatical characteristics which show its narration, the intonation of that also shows its grammatical type; the interrogative and exclamatory sentences in addition of their grammatical signs, they have their own intonation which indicate their grammatical types. In Dari language the narrative sentences pronounce in a low intonation for example in sentence of «علی رفت» /alî raft/ the intonation ends in descending voice which shows that «علی رفت» /alî raft/ is a narrative sentence. If the intonation of «علی رفت» /alî raft/ ends by an ascending voice it shows that «علی رفت» /alî raft/ is an interrogative sentence; finally if the intonation of «علی رفت» /alî raft/ ends without any difference of its beginning voice it shows that the sentence of «علی رفت» /alî raft/ is an exclamatory sentence. [18]

When we know the above truth, we conclude although the

intonation is the characteristic of word it also influence on the meaning of sentence; so we should concentrate on the intonation of sentences and know what differences are there. [17, 19]

It is mentionable which the height, middle, and lowness of the sentences are dependent on different situations and conditions that may the speakers use one or more of the described characteristics; phoneticians, divided intonations in the following kinds:

#### 2.2.1. Similar Intonation

This intonation does not face to vicissitude suddenly on the chain of speech and the intonation continues similarly from beginning to the end. [16]

#### 2.2.2. Falling Intonation

When the intonation face to vicissitude suddenly on the chain of speech and finally ends by a falling voice, that is called "falling intonation". [14, 16]

#### 2.2.3. Rising Intonation

This intonation face to vicissitude on the chain of speech and finally ends by a rising intonation voice, which it is called "rising intonation".

#### 2.2.4. Falling-Rising Intonation

While the intonation face to vicissitude suddenly on the chain of speech and at the first falls and then rises; it is called "falling-rising intonation".

#### 2.2.5. Rising-Falling Intonation

This intonation is opposite of the fourth (falling-rising intonation), it at the first rises and then falls; which is called "rising-falling intonation". [11, 14]

### 2.3. Pause

While the pause takes place between the ingredients of the sentences, the meanings are changing. Therefore, we should to care that the using of pauses do not change the meaning of sentences in spite of our purposes. For example in the sentences of «می آرید» /may-ârid/ and «میارید» /mayârid/ and «نی آرید» /nay-ârid/ and «نیارید» /nayârid/ pay attention. As it is seen in each pair of sentences, the same words are used but never have the same meaning; the difference only appear on the sentence intonation. On the first pair of sentences it is seen that the first one is an imperative sentence which the speaker wants the "wine (may)" and on the second one the sentence is also in imperative mood but on the negative aspect which the speaker wants to bring nothing (which is known between the first person and the second person) and the speaker (first person) orders on the person spoken (second person) which bring nothing (do not bring that which is known between them). Also in the second pair (third and fourth) sentences it has been seen which in the third one it is an imperative sentence that the speaker (first person) wants the reed (flute) but in the fourth sentence, the sentence is negative which the speaker (first person) wants nothing (the thing which is known for second person) so, the speaker does

not want any things. This difference indicates only by the pause between the ingredients of speech chain. [18, 19]

The "pause" is shown by the sign of «+» or by the sign of «-» in phonetics.

### 2.4. Historical View on the Above Mentioned Causes

As we see in historical grammar and the history of linguistic, they are talking about two kinds of meanings the first one is the meaning of words which we know for instance the word book means a collected and printed written form of language; the car word means a vehicle which has four wheels and utilize to transport the people, things, etc. the second meaning of the words which is dependent on the context and series of words that are making a sentence. [9, 10, 12]

The second meanings are dependent; they may be different in different sentences, in different reading method, in different preceding words, in different following words and so on. [8, 9]

## 3. Conclusion

The speech has two kinds of systems; the one of is the grammatical (segmental system) and the second one is extra grammatical (supra segmental system) which the grammatical is divided in to parts that we prepare in two axis (the horizontal and the vertical ones) which the parts of speech can settle according to their roles on the horizontal axis (axis of one sitting); another axis is vertical one which shows the class of words with the same category in grammar for example noun group, verb group etc. that we can change a word by another one from its grammatical group if there is a necessity.

It means the grammar of language modifies the location for each word according its role for example the subject place is modified before and have to fill its empty place. The object which the action can be done on, also has the modified place that cannot settle other places; the verb also has its place on the segment of speech which specified for. It has to settle on that place.

But there is another system on parallel of the grammatical system; it is called supra segmental system (extra-grammatical system). The supra segmental is the one that we never can modify specific character for word and sentence before; unless a word come to in a text and what the purpose of speaker be known, there is no possibility to show the intonation etc. for example the words of «می» and «آرید» and «نی» and «آرید» cannot be determined in specific stress, intonation, and pause until they come in a text and segment.

If we care, the speakers of languages use their languages with two possibilities the first one is the grammatical possibility which confined before, called grammar and the second one is the possibility of supra segmental (extra grammatical system), which give the devise and innovation chance for speakers. In this opportune ity the speaker can make new compositions, and they can put out their ideas in the best forms; create the artistic compositions by changing

the stress, intonation, pause etc. it is mentionable which the grammatical system also face to vicissitude that the its field determine by expression of “grammatical deviation”; but the possibilities in supra segment system are more.

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