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SOME PECULIARITIES OF RELATIONS OF PHONETIC GRADATION (AS EXAMPLE OF FRENCH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES)

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the problem of expression of the gradual relations between phonological units in a paradigm of vowels is considered. Comparative and comparative study of languages, especially the study of the gradual relations of phonetic and phonological units, is one of the main problems of modern linguistics. Materials of the French and Uzbek languages are compared on this basis opinion about their expressions in these languages are given.

KEYWORDS: *Privative Opposition, Gradual Opposition, Equipollent Opposition Phonologic Units, Degrees Of Graduations, Nasal Indexes, Openness Index, Closeness Index, Nasal Vowels.*

INTRODUCTION

Language structure has a level-sensitive construction and the level units are in mutual integrative relations. Relations between the units are defined according to their relation to one level or different level. There is a paradigmatic relation among the units related to one level and they can also have types of internal relations. In his work “Basics of phonology” the linguist S.Trubetsky classified the meaning making oppositions on the basis of three principles according to the relation among their parts:

- privative;
- gradual;
- of equal importance;

In his work “Phonology and morphonology of the Uzbek language” A.Abduazizov dwelt on N.S.Trubetsky’s second classification according to the members of opposition and showed these relations comparing with the Uzbek language.[1. 31-32]

a) if a sign, which exists in one member of the opposition, does not exist in another member, it is called «**privative**» opposition. The affinity of the signs are considered here: voiced-voiceless such as **б-п, т-д, к-г**; In our opinion, the oppositions of sounds in French **b-p, t-d, k-g** can be examples for this.

b) if it is possible to put some other phonemes between members of the opposition, it is called «**graded**» (or **gradual**) **opposition**. For example, in Uzbek we can put the phonemes **т** and **д** between the oppositions **п-к, б-г**; and French also has the opposition of the above-stated sounds;

c) if the members of the opposition are logically equal, their signs are not graded and if presence or absence of signs is not confirmed or rejected, it is called the equipollent opposition. In Uzbek the oppositions **п-т, ф-к, к-п, б-д, д-г, г-в** are equipollent oppositions.

Although the appearance of graduation relation of the Uzbek language, such as the relation of phonological and morphological gradation was studied by O.Bozorov, wide comparative study of grading in Uzbek and French phonology is becoming one of the other new actual problems of linguistics.

There is an original and magnificent relation between the types of natural and social world and language world. So, it is not difficult to understand that it is not reflected in the reflection of actually existing grading (natural, social realities). Therefore, the matter of mutual relation of gradings in the reality and language holds a separate importance... As the reality consists of various and always changing things and phenomena, the grading peculiar to them is also too various, continuous and constant formation. The language incompletely reflects countless, continuous and limitless gradings peculiar to the reality... In a word, the grading in the language is an abstract view of grading phenomenon of the whole world"[2. 10.] Taking the example of the above mentioned opinions, the author shows the increase and decrease of water temperature as an example of lexical unit.

It is known that words make rows of grading according to their semantic relation and the range of words comprising the word “mediate” as a bright sample makes it.

Sharif Bobojonov and Ikrom Islomov’s “Learner’s dictionary of word grading of the Uzbek language” has clear information about members of grading range of the words. According to authors’ opinions, the sign expressed with the word “mediate” shows the state of midst, interval, that is, the state between two contrasting signs. If the word “mediate” takes place between antonyms, the grading is noticed little (**Катта** → **ўрта** → **кичик**) (**big-mediate-small**).

But if the units with word “mediate” are imagined not on the basis of contrasting signs, but on the basis of increase or decrease of a certain sign, the semantic grading will clearly be understood. [3.6.]

Relations show the differences between quality and quantity in the signs of things on the basis of signs in the reality. For example, according to the placement between starting and finishing points of human’s lifetime stages:

neonatal → **babyhood** → **childhood** → **youth** → **adolescence** → **juvenility** → **senility**; according to the colorfulness of the sign:

middle-aged → **oldman** → **aged** → **elderly** → **old** → **gray-haired** → **gray-bearded** → **elderly man**; according to the increase of growth: **neonatal** → **baby** → **child** → **teenager** → **young man** → **old man**.

O. Bozorov explains that it is important to differentiate the types of grading peculiar to language and speech. The gradings in language and speech are in relations of generality -peculiarity, abstractness – concreteness and these two stages should separately be taken into consideration in grading problem. As the language grading is studied as a problem, scientific concepts, terms, criteria and also the appearance of grading in the language system, the matters like parallel phenomena of language grading and other language phenomena relations reflect actuality.” [2.45-46]

O. Bozorov counts the following phonological signs in the world and Uzbek phonology, such as: larynx (lower, medium, upper), gullet or pharynx (lower, medium, upper), tongue (tip, medium, back) velar, front of tongue, back, back of tongue, back/side –lateral, gum (alveolar, apical) lip or labial (labial, labial-dental, nasal, teeth (dental), inter-dental, labial, half labial, back of the tongue (vowel), middle of the tongue (vowel), tip of the tongue (vowel), wide (mouth), medium wide (mouth), narrow (mouth), upper rising, medium rising, lower rising, plosive, fricative, vibrating, hushing, vowel, consonant, sonorant, voiced, voiceless, noisy, compact, fluency, discontinuity, rapidness, tone, (low, high).

We add also signs of length and shortness to the above-mentioned signs, because length and shortness in the vowel system of French is peculiar.

The above-stated phonological signs are observed in French in the following way:

Les voyelles fermées , les voyelles ouvertes, les voyelles antérieures (aiguës), les voyelles postérieures (graves), les voyelles nasales, les voyelles orales .

Consonnes: orales (le voile du palais ferme la cavité nasale) nasales (le voile du palais laisse ouvert le passage par la cavité nasale), sonores (si les cordes vocales vibrent), sourdes (les cordes vocales ne vibrent pas, la glotte est ouverte), occlusives (momentanées, explosives), constrictives (continues, fricatives), sifflantes, chuintantes, labiales, bilabiales, labio-dentales, alvéo-dentales, alvéolaires, post-alvéolaires, palatales, vélaires (dorsal/parisien), bilabio-palatale , bilabio-vélaire .

In modern linguistics, especially in languages of different system the gradual relation is not worked out from the phonological point of view. On the assumption of the above-mentioned gradual ranges in learner’s dictionary of S. Bobojonov and I. Islomov we found it necessary to single out the range of phonological differences by grading.

According to the size of composition:

phoneme → **morpheme** → **word** → **form**

And in French:

phonème → **morphème** → **mot** → **forme (groupe rythmique** → **syntagme)**

According to the complexity of speech unit composition:
sound→**syllable**→**word**→**phrase**→**sentence**; **sonne**→**syllabe**→**mot**→**groupe**
rytmique→**syntagme**→**phrase**

According to the quantity of voice:

Sonorant →**voiced**→**voiceless**

sonore→**sourde**

In the dictionary of S. Bobojonov and I. Islomovit is graded according to quantity of voice. But in our opinion, it would be more desirable to grade according to the participation of vocal cords rather than quantity of voice. So, according to the participation of vocal cords:

sonore→**sourde**

vowel→**sonorant**→**consonant**

voyelle→ **sonore**→**consonne**

According to the place of articulation:

Front row→**middle row**→**back row**

antérieures→**interieure** → **postérieure**

According to the opening degree of mouth and raising degree of tongue:

wide→**medium wide**→**narrow**

And in French

open→**medium**→**close**

ouverte→ **mi- ouverte** → **fermée**

According to the participation of lips:

labialized→ **half labialized**→**not labialized**

labialisé→ **mi- labiale** → **non labialisé**

As French is different from Uzbek, the signs, which are supplementary in Uzbek, are considered essential for French. Vowel sounds in French are rich a lot and their quantity is as twice or thrice as big than those in Uzbek and some other languages (as well as Russian).

The peculiarity of vowel sounds in French lies in that there exist nasal vowels in the system of vowels of the language. According to D. Nabiyeva's clarification, the nasality does not have a phonological cost in Uzbek. "Although nasalization is widely spread in several Uzbek dialects, it cannot be the sign of distinguishing vowel phonemes. As a supplementary sign it makes a variant of vowels. As is understood that nasalization does not exist in paradigmatic relation of vowels in Uzbek. It appears only as a supplementary sign on the effect of nasal consonants in syntagmatics" [4.79]

In pronouncing nasal vowels in French one should not raise the backside of tongue too high and not join it with soft palate, otherwise voice timbre will change and it will cause mixture of vowel with consonant. [6.43]

Therefore one may conclude that nasalization in French exists in paradigmatic relation.

Nasal sounds in French appear as a result of soft palate's going down and the air stream coming out of the lung passing through both nasal and mouth cavity.

According to opinions of many French linguists, the nasality in French is historic. Appearance of nasal sounds has become the reason of many linguists' disputes. As a few linguists emphasize that French nasal sounds appeared on the effect of Celtic language. [6. 82] However, as a result the nasality appeared in the countries surrounding Celt country, such as: Gaul (present France, Rome) (Northern dialects of Italy also have nasal sounds), Iberian Peninsula (Portuguese have 6 nasal sounds. [8.56]

But according to the information about Celtic language, there do not exist any nasal sounds in Celtic. This phenomenon proves that nasality appeared not on the effect of Celtic, but on the effect of Latin.

In Gaul (Ancient name of France) language the nasal consonants **m** and **n** produced a strong effect on stressed vowels preceding them. Consequently:

- 1) it caused the change of vowels;
- 2) the vowels in this word became nasalized.

At the beginning of the period passing to Roman language the vowels **ā** and **ē** nasalized in the following words used in the north of France: **grānt** "big", **vēndre** "sell", **ānfānt** "child", **fēme** "woman" and others. Coming to the half of XI century all of these nasal sounds go back to the nasal sound **ā** (**vāndre**, **ānfānt**, **fāme**). At the beginning of XII century the vowel **o** in the words **bon**, **corone**, **pomeis** nasalized: **bōn** "good", **corōne** "crown", **pōme** "apple". [9. 250] But nasal sounds do not exist in the modern French words **pomme** "apple", **femme** "woman", because of the double **m** the nasal sound has given its place to pure sound.

It is very important to know the historical development of nasal sounds in the course of learning modern literary French:

- a) the vowels **i** and **u**, like other vowels, turned to the nasal sounds [ĕ̃] and [œ̃] in XVI and XVII centuries. in «wine» prince «prince», un "one" and etc.
- b) having come to the present time the nasal diphthong **ey** was entirely simplified into nasal sound **ë**: **plein** "complete", **teindre** "paint", **pain** "bread"
- c) In middle French the consonants **m** and **n**, coming at the end of a word, are not pronounced or any consonants preceded by nasal vowel are not pronounced at all. For example, such words as **bon** "good", **pain** "bread", **comte** "earl", **vendre** "sell" began being pronounced as follows **bō**, **pē**, **kōt**, **vādr** (in old French as **bōn**, **pēyn**, **kōnt**, **vāndr**). However, in the South as a result of complete swallow of nasal sounds voiced nasal sounds disappear. Only owing to the influence of local dialects they are more or less kept in the South. For example: the word **monde** "world" is pronounced **mōd** in Paris, in Toulouse and Marseilles as **mōnde**, and even **mōnd** without any change as a whole.

On the assumption of the abovementioned we can conclude that in dialects of modern literary French we can observe the various pronunciation process of the nasal sound. Here we mark the nasal sound - N; with **c** – half consonant (incompletely pronounced):

[**mōd**] → [**mōnde**] → [**mōnde**]

N → N+c → N+c

d) further as a result of **n,m+consonant** nasal sounds turn to pure sounds. As in the past the consonants are pronounced (not nasalized) as follows: **flamme** “fire”, **couronne** “crown”, **lain** wool (fabric)”, **veine** “lived” , (in old French *flāme*, *korōne*, *lēyne*, *vēyne*), and the word **femme** (*fēmina*), **fāme** and **fēme** [fam]. In the middle of XVII century the word **grammaire** (Grammar) was pronounced as **grāmeṛ**. And this is causing a dispute that the word **grāmeṛ** is an obsolete word and it has a pronunciation peculiar to the dialect of that time. Hitherto **āne** (nasal sound) is still kept in very many southerners’ pronunciation instead of **année** “year” (pure sound).

As it is known that there are 4 nasal sounds in French: [**ã**] [**ɔ̃**] [**ẽ**] [**œ̃**]

phoneme [**ã**] – backside, open, not labialized nasal vowel.

phoneme [**ɔ̃**] – backside, open, a bit labialized.

phoneme [**ẽ**] – front side, open, not labialized nasal vowel.

phoneme [**œ̃**] – front side, narrow, open, labialized nasal vowel.

Now let’s review the grading relation of the nasal sounds above:

According to labialization:

[**ã**] → [**ẽ**] → [**ɔ̃**] → [**œ̃**]

not labialized → not labialized → half-labialized → labialized

According to the place of articulation:

[**ẽ**] → [**œ̃**] → [**ã**] → [**ɔ̃**]

front side → front side → back side → back side

CONCLUSION

In this papers we have shows that we can ;eqsure sources of French phonetics the degree of mouth openness of all the nasal sounds is expressed with almost the same degree of **openness**. There are various pronunciation processes in these sounds according to labialization, and it is possible to determine that the sign of openness in sounds is different, because in phoneme [**ẽ**] the openness of mouth is medium. The phoneme [**œ̃**] is a bit more open than the sound [**ẽ**].

It is important to keep to the following rules in pronouncing nasal sounds.

a) nasal sound that comes at the end of a word is always pronounced shortly;

b) nasal sound that comes in the middle of a word is always pronounced long. Compare:

Grand [grã], **grande** [grã : d] , **grandeur** [grã ː dœ:r]

c) it is important to pay a special attention to the pronunciation of nasal and pure sound that follows the nasal consonants m,n at the end of a word.

don - donne [d ɔ̃- d o n], an - année [ã- a- 'ne]

As it is obvious, in the chain of nasal sounds above the sounds differ from each other as in the following phonologic signs: according to the quantity of voice, according to the place of articulation, according to labialization, according to the degree of mouth openness and tongue rise. These differences, in their turn, betoken the existence of grading relation.

Particularly, grading from openness to closedness, from width to narrowness, from length to shortness or vice versa is peculiar to the sound system of French. This is differentiated by appearing of pronunciation of French sounds in different degrees, or it is graded by comparing the quantity of different signs of the same sound in several words.

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