

Rhythmic Patterns of Voice Register Fluctuations in the Dynamics of an Inspirational Speech

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Abstract

The paper presents the results of the experimental-phonetic analysis of voice register fluctuations in the dynamics of naturally occurring inspirational public addresses. The goal of the research was to check the validity of the hypothesis that the prosodic pattern of an oral text correlates with its commutative-pragmatic structure. The study involves communicative pragmatic, auditory, and instrumental-acoustic analysis of the original recordings of M. L. King's *I Have a Dream* address and J. F. Kennedy's *Ich bin ein Berliner* speech. The data obtained show that the shifts in voice register follow certain rhythmic patterns, with a higher voice register marking pragmatically dominant, emotionally charged, parts of the speeches' macrostructure. The results of the study also suggest that the prosodic marking of the textual foci correlates with their place and function in the pragmatic macrostructure of the whole speech.