

Comparative study of Supra segmental Feature of Telugu –English

* Dr. M.Koteswar Rao
Assistant Professor
Dept.of English
Krishna University
Machillipatanm - 521001 A.P

** Bodipalli Nagaiah
PhD Scholar
Krishna University
Machillipatam – 521001A.P

Abstract

Communication is a very basic human need and activity – it is what keeps us in contact with the people around us and in this competitive world, English essential in order to understand a message in a communication process.

The main intention of this paper is to examine the intonation patterns of Telugu-English, which is one of the non native varieties of English and compare them with Received Pronunciation (RP).

Aim and Scope

In the light of the fact that the scope of study is vast, we only confine ourselves to certain oft-repeated common intonation patterns. We hope it will drop some light on the nature of the intonation patterns, the root cause of such errors and possible remedial measures. In the first section we give the introduction about of intonation. In the second section, we compare Telugu-English intonation patterns with the intonation patters of R.P accent. An attempt is made to suggest some remedial measures for correcting some of the typical intonation patterns of Telugu-English

Introduction

Intonation

Intonation is not the same as the intonation of any other language. As people think that intonation is the same for all languages. But English language intonation is certainly different when comparing with other languages to conveying the meanings. For example: Thank you may be said in two ways: in the first the voice

Starts high and end low, and this shows real gratitude; in the second the voice

Starts low and ends high and its shows something is not very important and casual.

In view of J.Sethi and P.V.Dhamija (2007). The vocal cords are capable of vibrating at varying rates. Now, the number of cycles per second (cps) at which they vibrate is called the frequency of vibration, which determine the

pitch of the voice. The higher the frequency of vibration, which determine the pitch of the voice. The higher the frequency, the higher is the pitch and vice versa. The variation of pitch in speech is called 'Intonation'.

J.D.O Connor (1960, 1980) reported, we can say a word group definitely or we can say it hesitantly, we can say it angrily or kindly, we can say it with interest or without interest and these difference are largely made by the tunes we use: the words do not change their meaning, but the tune adds something to the works, and what it adds is the speaker's feelings at that moment: this way of using tunes is called '**intonation**'.

For examples: // sit `down // (Falling tone)

// sit ,down // (Rising tone) Examples:

In the above examples, the first one is said with a falling tone. It has a neutral meaning. In the second with a rising tone. It indicates that the person is being polite. That is why the pitch variation is very important in communication.

Intonation Patterns of R.P accent as per O' Conner and Arnold

- 1) High - fall : the pitch falling from very high to low
- 2) Low - fall : the pitch falling from mid to low
- 3) High -rise : the pitch rising from mid to high or low to high.
- 4) Low - rise : the pitch rising from low to mid level, or a little above.
- 5) Fall – rise : the pitch falling from about mid level to low and then rising to more or less the same level. The fall and rise may be a) within one syllable, or
b) on different syllables.
- 6) Rise–fall :The pitch rising from low to about mid and then falling to low

Feature of Intonation

M.A.K. Halliday (1970) defines intonation as 'the melody of speech' or 'intonation is the musical speech pattern'. He talks about three aspect of intonation,

1. Tone
2. Tonicity
3. Tonality

Tone

The tone refers to the kinetic tone carried by the tonic syllable is 'tone' (falling, rising, or a combination of both) to be used on the tonic syllable is 'tone'

\yes -- falling

/yes -- rising

vyes – falling rising

Δyes - rising falling

Tonicity:

Tonicity means 'location of the tonic action' or major change in the pitch direction'.

For example: What a \pity.

Here the first syllable in 'pity' is the tonic syllable.

A shift in the tonic accent changes the meaning. For example :

1.\He works for me.

2. He\works for me.

Tonality

Tonality means 'division of sentence into the tone groups' Tone group is a meaningful unite in its own right. The tone group is one 'unite of information.'

We communicate in 'chunks of speech' and not word by word. We express our thoughts in closely kinetic groups of words. These groups are called tone groups or sense groups. Pauses Separate these groups and they can be marked by a vertical bar in writing.

For examples: Good morning/How are you?/

SENTENCE -- WISE ANALYSIS OF THE LIST OF SENTENCES:

Wh-questions:

'Where is your `name'?

Tonality: it treated as a single tone group.

Tonicity: Some informants had the tone on the first syllable of 'name'.

Some informants chose 'what' as the tonic syllable.

Tone: The informants used a low-fall. Some informants used a low-rise. Three informants used a level tone

Tag - questions

(Your are coming today,) `aren't you'?

Tonality: The informants divided the statement and the question tag into two tone groups.

Tonicity: The informants located the tonic syllable as 'coming' ?in the statement.

Tone: The informants used a low-rise in the statement.

Exclamations:

What a terrible sight!

Tonality: The informants used a single tone group.

Tonicity: The informants located the tonic accent on what'.

The informants chose the first syllable of terrible' the tonic syllable.

The informants located the tonic syllable as sight'.

Tone: The informants used a high-fall.

The informants used a level tone.

The informants used a divided fall-rise.

Greetings:

Good Morning:

Tonality: The informants treated it a single tone group.

Tonicity: The informants chose the first syllable of 'morning' as the tonic syllable.

One of the informants chose 'good' as the tonic syllable.

Tone: The informants used a low-fall.

Requests:

Please sit down.

Tonality: The informants treated it as a single tone group.

Tonicity: The informants chose 'please' as the tonic syllable.

Tone: The informants used a low fall.

Wh-questions:

Except for one out of the five Wh-questions that are given in the text, there is a marked difference between the R.P English intonation patterns and the Telugu-English patterns regarding the location of the tonic syllable. The difference can be seen in the following:

R..PAccet

TE

what \colour was it?

\What color was it?

Question tags:

As far as the question tags are concerned, it can be seen from the following examples that the Telugu speakers differed from the R.P accent in tonicity and tone

R.P Accent

TE

You like it/ \Don't you?

You like it/don't you

From the above account, it can be noted that the location of the tonic syllable is less of a problem to the speakers than the choice of tone where question tags are concerned.

Greetings:

As far as the greetings are concerned, the warmth that is expressed by the R.P English speakers is not captured by the Telugu speakers. These sentences therefore sound as if they are read out with no feeling to accompany them:

Good\ morning

The R.P English intonation of a hearty cheerful greeting is usually a high fall on 'morning'. Here is the difference:

R.P Accent

TE

Good \morning

Good \morning

The other greeting 'Hello' conformed to the RP pattern in that the Telugu speakers used a low fall on the first syllable, like the R.P English speakers.

Exclamations:

The differences in tonicity and tone between the R.P English and Telugu-English can be seen from the following exclamatory sentences.

R.P

TE

What a terrible\sight?

\What a terrible sight?

Requests:

Regarding commands there is conformity of the Telugu speakers of English. As regards tonicity, the Telugu English speakers have their own patterns: Consider the following sentences:

R.P accent

TE

Come \here

\Come here.

It can be seen that while the commands in BBC accent have a low fall on the tonic syllable, the Telugu English speakers have a low fall at the very beginning of the sentences. In requests, the Telugu English differs from BBC accent both in tonicity and tone. The following examples prove this:

R..P accent

TE

Please sit /down

\Please sit down.

The difference, can be seen above. The BBC English speakers use a low rise at the end of the sentence and the Telugu English speakers use a low fall at the very beginning of the sentence.

CONCLUSION:

If we look at the above data, we can observe that there is a deviation in tone, tonality and tonicity in Telugu English as opposed to BBC accent. In fact, the most of these deviations are usually attributed to the mother tongue interference. And in- depth study alone can shed more light on the deviations of intonation patterns.

First of all, our attitude towards English has to change. Unless we have a wholesome attitude to English pronunciation, and have the rigorous practice there will be little change in the English accent. The findings of the present study would be a useful guide for futures

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