DEPHONOLOGIZATION OF SYLLABIC INTONATION IN LITHUANIAN URBAN SOCIALECTS

L. Grumadienė

Institute of the Lithuanian Language,
Vilnius, Lithuania

ABSTRACT

Under the influence of present-day vowel length dephonologization the tendency of dephonologization of syllabic intonation has arisen in Lithuanian urban socialects. The basis of syllabic intonation realization is being lost. As to the vocalic and mixed diphthongs they undergo essential qualitative changes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The tendency of dephonologization of vowel length in Lithuanian urban socialects is rather obvious, though it is not typical to any Lithuanian dialect /1/. The results of the experimental investigation show that only 4-24% of unstressed long vowels in the word final position are being realised in the fluent speech. For instance, in the words: výrų 'men' Gen. pl., kõpą 'dune' Acc. sng., kándys 'moth' Nom.pl., lėlę 'doll' Acc.sng. etc. The same phenomena at the beginning and in the middle of a word equals to 4-17%.For instance, ąžuolýnas 'oak-wood' Nom. sng., rūkyti 'to smoke', rašymas 'writing' Nom.sng. etc.

The most specific feature of present-day urban Lithuanian is the lengthening of short stressed final vowels which was found in 9-24% cases. This may be viewed as phonetic specification of approaching phonological change, which is possible in typological field of long and short vowel opposition. For instance, vaikų̃.s 'children' Acc. pl., maži. 'small'Nom.pl., namė̃. 'in the house' Loc.sng.etc. The substitution V˙ → V./[-stressed] as far as now is not found in any Lithuanian dialect, nevertheless it is predicted from the phonological structure of the Lithuanian language. Columnal morphemic accentuation becomes more and more accepted. The reason of this may be both the factor of analogy and uniformity of syllabic intonation /3/. For instance, ryšiaĩ 'relation' Nom. pl., Standard form - ryšiaĩ ; įdõmus 'interesting'; įdomùs; spjūviu 'spit' Instr. sng.; spjūviù; sẽslius 'settled' Acc.pl.; sẽslių̀s; pilka 'grey'Nom.sng.; pilkà; mùses 'fly' Acc.pl.; musės; etc. Though, there were only 11-18% of the above mentioned cases, it must be noted, that such changes take place inspite of Saussure-Fortunatov law, which is based on the opposition of syllabic intonation. One should say that

hypercorrection becomes a rather common phenomena . The extraneous factor in this change is speakers or their parents origin from different dialects, who came into closer contact as communication improved, especially in the second half of our century. We must not ignore the fact that language is a system of auditory signs, and that language learners acquire the phonology of their language by ear/1/. It would seem that, when a learner becomes aware of differences between his speech and the speech of the others, there are two ways in which he can adjust his grammar. He can revise his analysis of the linguistic units in question so that his grammar will naturally produce the desired output. Or he can devise ad-hoc rules to cover up the inadequancy of his analysis. The results are difficult foresee. The changes which undergo in Lithuanian urban socialects are greatly resulted by the intertwining of representatives of various dialects. For instance, the syllabic intonation of western Lithuanian dialects is of dynamic origin, while that of eastern ones is of quantitative origin/2, 6/.

As a result of the tendency of dephonologization of length of vowels emerged the tendency of dephonologization of syllabic intonation. The main feature of vowel length opposition of some Lithuanian dialects is tenseness, while of the other ones - duration. The intertwining of representatives of different dialects in urban sphere allows some of them to accept the pronuncation V. (half-long stressed vowel) instead of V˙ (long circumflex vowel) and V˙ (long acute vowel) as a normal one. In this way the basis of syllabic intonation realization is being lost. This is obviously seen in stressed monophthongs. As to the vocalic and mixed diphthongs they undergo essential qualitative changes, which greatly differ under the influence of dialects. Such variety leads to rule generalization.

That's why the realization of syllabic intonation is more distinctive in the syllables with diphthongal nucleus. Though, essential qualitative changes appear in such diphthongs, they may greatly differ as in some dialects the first component of diphthongs is more important while for other dialects - the second component.

2. SPECTRAL ANALYSIS

The spectral pecularities of acute and circumflex diphthongs /ai/, /au/ /ei/ have been investigated. The experimental corpus consisted of 8 similar word pairs in which the diphthongs under the investigation are between voiceless consonants: kaĩšo - paĩšo, taĩko - kaĩto, káušo - kaũšo, keĩkia - peĩkia, áuk - aũk, taĩko - paĩko, keik -peĩk, keikė - peikė. The spectral analysis was made according the computer programm compiled by prof. V. Undzėnas at Vilnius University. The results obtained show that:

a/ the quality of 1st component of stressed acute and circumflex diphthongs differs significantly,

b/ the durational difference of such diphthongs is less significant.

F_1 and F_2 characteristics of first components of acute diphthongs are more like to F_1 and F_2 corresponding monophthongs/7/, with circumflex being more different (tables 1-3). For instance, F_1 and F_2 of the 1st component of /aĩ/ in the word 'kaĩto' (table 1) is between /o/ (F_1=400 Hz, F_2= 900 Hz; compare with final o, where F_1=400 Hz, F_2=1200 Hz) and [e] (F_1=600 Hz, F_2= 1800 Hz). "Normal" [a] has F_1=800 Hz, F_2=1200 Hz; compare with the first component of the word 'táiko' - F_1=850 Hz, F_2=1500 Hz. F_1 and F_2 of first component of /eĩ/ (with circumflex) in the word 'peĩkia' resembles to those of the monophthongs /e/; /au/ (with circumflex) in the word 'kaũšo' - resembles to /o/.

The comparison of the results of present investigation with the ones of previous Lithuanian dialectal investigations carried by other linguists show that qualitative difference of the first componente of acute and circumflex diphthongs is not a unique phenomena in Lithuanian. There are some changes of the same kind in eastern dialects where syllabic intonationis of quantitative origin. This is found especially in peripherial dialects. For instance, the pronuncation of 'kiaũlė' is [k'ọũ.ɫɛ.], but of the word 'kiáuras' - [k'ɐ́uras], or like that from Anykščiai - a word 'kártis' they pronounce [kɔ́r'tis], but a word 'vaĩgas' - [vaĩ̯.gas], while in a word 'laũkas' the pronuncation is [lɔ̃ũkas], in 'láužas' it is [lɐ́ụ̃žus]. The changes in western dialects are of different character: the vowels of the second component of stressed diphthongs in western dialects are narrower than those of eastern, for instance, [u] in the word 'jáutis' in western dialects it is pronounced like [jáutis]' while the pronuncation with [ọ́], [a˙] is met only in eastern dialects /5/. Because of this speakers from eastern dialects living in urban sphere may take ac acute syllables for circumflex ones. The opposition of syllabic intonation is realised not only by tone or intensity modulation changes, but by the place of stress contrast too. The fact that acute diphthongs are longer than circumflex ones in the urban socialect may be explained by the qualitative characteristics of stressed diphthongs.

3. CONCLUSION

The tendency of columnal stress, the qualitative changes of stressed diphthongs and hypercorrection show the tendency of dephonologization of syllabic intonation opposition in the Lithuanian urban socialect. The dephonologization of long and short vowel opposition is the main condition for the above mentioned dephonologization. Due to it the quantitative word stress is being formed. There is no opposition of stressed short syllables in Lithuanian. It is typical only for stressed long syllables. Though at present time this opposition is disappearing in the long syllables in the Lithuanian urban socialects, what leads to the disappearing of syllabic intonation, the opposition of them.

4. REFERENCES

/1/ ANDERSEN,H.(1978),"Abductive and deductive changes",Readings in historical phonology/ed.byPh.Baldi,R.N. Werth, Pensylvania Univ. Press,313-348.

/2/ GIRDENIS,A.(1974),"Prozodinės priegaidžių ypatybės šiaurės žemaičių tarmėje",Eksperimentinė ir praktinė fonetika,160-198.

/3/ GRUMADIENĖ,L.,STUNDŽIA B. "Dinamika oppozicij slogovych intonacij v fonologičeskich sistemach dialektnoj i gorodskoj reči",Proceedings of Ith ICPhS,5,95-98.

/4/ GRUMADIENĖ,L.(1989),"Ilgųjų ir trumpųjų balsių priešpriešos nykimas miestiečių lietuvių kalboje", Baltistica,III(2)Addition, 292-296.

/5/ JAVNIS,K.(1908-1916), "Grammatika litovskago jazyka.Litovskij original i russkij perevod",Petrograd.

/6/ KAZLAUSKAS,J.(1968), "Lietuvių kalbos istorinė gramatika",Vilnius,13 etc.

/7/ PAKERYS,A.(1986),"Lietuvių bendrinės kalbos fonetika",Vilnius;PAKERYS,A. "Lietuvių bendrinės kalbos prozodija"(1982),Vilnius.

TABLE of F_1 and F_2 in Standard Lithuanian (according to /7/):

/i˙/	F_2=2300 Hz	F_1= 300 Hz
/ė˙/	F_2=2100 Hz	F_1= 350 Hz
/e˙/	F_2=1800 Hz	F_1= 600 Hz
/a˙/	F_2=1200 Hz	F_1= 800 Hz
/o˙/	F_2= 900 Hz	F_1= 400 Hz
/u˙/	F_2= 600 Hz	F_1= 300 Hz

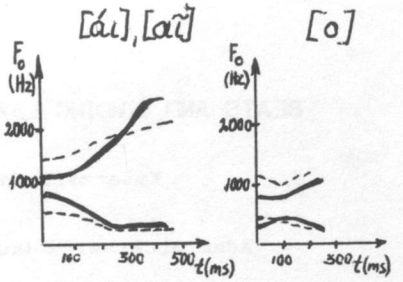

Fig.1 Schematic spectragram of 'táiko' - ——
'kaĩto' - – – –

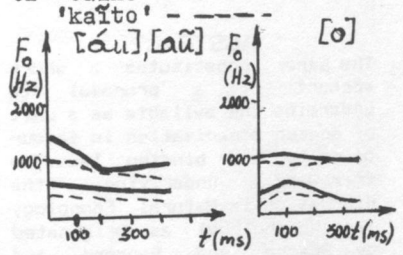

Fig.2 Schematic spectragram of 'káušo' - ——
'kaũšo' - – – –

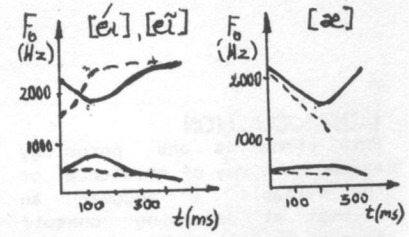

Fig.3 Schematic spectragram of 'kéikia' - ——
'peĩkia' - – – –