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**ENGLISH RHYTHM AS PROMINENCE OF ACCENTED SYLLABLES
(A CORPUS STUDY OF AGE AND GENDER EFFECTS)**

Abstract

In this paper we provide evidence for prosodic prominence of accented syllables, which is the base of English rhythm, to be sustained or increased with age, thus optimizing speech communication against the background of widely reported facts of F0 drop, intensity decrease, articulation rate slowing down that are caused by natural physical development. By adducing the telephone talks corpus data on F0 and intensity, apart from duration, we were able to single out increase in accented syllables durations as well as F0 range and higher F0max variability scores as statistically significant characteristics of changing rhythm patterns. Specific gender differences are also noted.

Keywords: English, prosody, rhythm, prominence, age, gender.

