

Abstract

The article examines the acoustic characteristics of German unstressed vowels in spontaneous monologue speech. The dependence of phonetic manifestation of a segment on its position in the informative frame of the utterance is determined. The results of the acoustic study demonstrate first, canonical characteristics of vowels within the rheme parts of utterances and changes of vowel quality towards more central position as far as the degree of openness and advancement-retraction in the theme parts; second, stable vowel duration increase within highly informative parts; third, no clear dependence of vowel intensity on its location within the theme or rheme parts.