

Abstract

In models of intonation in the languages of the world there is a considerable amount of universal features. However certain realizations and grouping of prosodic means in certain models of intonation in different languages are not similar. Our knowledge about intonation patterns of the endangered Evenki language is rather limited. The current research is aimed at studying pitch contours of sentences of different communicative types. The results of the acoustic study of tone units pronounced by two female Evenki native speakers demonstrate the following common features. Statements, general and alternative questions as well as exclamations and imperative sentences were realized by both speakers in a very similar way. However there was instability in tone units phonetic manifestation that on the one hand, is speaker-dependent, but on the other hand, is closely connected with the status of the Evenki language as an endangered one. Variability was found in general pitch level, inclination and declination slope and even in pitch direction in special questions. The latter can be explained by the different influence of the acquired Russian language on the native Evenki language with different Evenki speakers.