

UDC 81'342

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ON CONSONANT DURATION IN CV AND CCV SYLLABLES

Abstract

In this paper, we investigate two factors influencing consonant duration: phrase accent and syllable length (in segments). First, we performed a corpus-based analysis of consonant duration in stressed CV and CCV syllables in 3-syllable words using a 30-hour speech corpus. As a result, we have found the following tendencies: (1) consonants in CV syllables are longer than those in CCV syllables; (2) under phrase accent, consonants in CV and CCV syllables are lengthened; (3) the increase in consonant duration is higher for CCV syllables than for CV syllables. As a post hoc experiment, we recorded a set of phrases with target words *Natasha* (female name), *zasada* (=ambush) and *zastava* (=cordon) in neutral context and under contrastive stress. Then consonant duration in the stressed syllables /sa/, /ta/ и /sta/ was measured. The measurements supported the initial tendencies. In addition, we found out that under contrastive stress we may observe extra high consonant lengthening (over 50%).

Keywords: consonant duration, intonation, syllable.

doi: 10.22250/2410-7190_2017_3_4_34_44