WORD STRESS IN UKRAINIAN AND CHINESE LANGUAGES:
PROBLEMS OF TYPOLOGY

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Abstract
The article analyzes and compares the accent-rhythm structure of two typologically different languages, Ukrainian and Chinese. Correct word accent can help to prevent mistakes and facilitate general comprehension on a prosody level, to which word accent belongs.

Keywords: Ukrainian language, Chinese language, word accent, tone, accent-rhythm structure.

INTRODUCTION
The article presents a comparative analysis of accent/stress in Ukrainian and Chinese languages. Comparative characteristics of accent-rhythm systems of these two languages provide the basis data to determine phonetic errors.

Special attention is paid to the study of word stress in Chinese language for a Ukrainian audience. It is necessary to emphasize that this study deals with word stress only in relation to two-syllable Chinese words.

PROCEDURES
Ukrainian and Chinese are categorized in different groups, and represent different types of languages. Ukrainian belongs to Indo-European family, Slavic group, and is a flective type language. Chinese belongs to the Sino-Tibetian family, and is an isolating syllabic type language. The phonetic system of these languages is also different, which is the main reason Ukrainian native speakers have so much trouble mastering the Chinese phonetical system.

In particular, difficulties may occur during the mastering of prosodic feathers. And word stress in one of them (prosodic feathers). Also difficulties tend to arise when mastering prosodic features, such as word stress. Improper application of word stress can render communication difficult or even impossible.

Comparative research into Ukrainian and Chinese phonetic systems can help in the development and selection of studying materials based on the phonetic features of both languages. Thus, the aim of article is to compare the word stress of different types of languages, namely flectional and isolating.

Many academics all over the world question the existence of word stress in Chinese. As the question of word stress is very important in other languages, especially European, so we examine this issue with a view to making the process of mastering Chinese language easier for students outside China, particularly Ukrainian speakers.

Accent-rhythm word structure is a phonological feature that is individual for each language. Word stress helps to organize word syllables into one language unit; this language unit has a certain accent rhythm structure. Word stress enables the learner to visualise, as a single accent word drawing, the relative prominence accorded to the syllables that comprise each language unit. Although the precise effect of stress is language specific, its role is invariably to
alter pronunciation (e.g. road дорога – dear дорога), even to the extent that meaning of words can change depending on position of stress.

Ukrainian language has a long history during which there were many changes on the grammatical, lexical and (most importantly) phonetical levels. Over the course of a language’s history, the accent system can evolve. For example, in the Slavic languages the pitch accent (or musical accent) developed into the dynamic accent.

The first scientific description of phonetic can be found in the book of Viennese scientist F. Mischkolf «Vergleichende Lautlehre der Slavischen Sprachen» (1852).

As Tocka Nina [1] showed, word stress is quantitative in Ukrainian language to the extent that the length of the vowel in stressed syllables is longer than the lengths of unstressed vowels. This is due to increased respiratory muscles pressure. Nina also showed how amplitude of vocal energy can be a feature of word stress in Ukrainian language. However, there are no definite rules to explain when a change in amplitude is necessary. Often, it occurs after 1 or 2 syllables of stressed or unstressed sounds.

In relation to word formation and the meaning of words, the situation is clearer, as there are clear rules governing the application of stress.

Professor San Duanmu [2] in his articles showed that as a rule in Chinese language stressed syllables are pronounced longer, but in tonal languages usually stress is used to underline the meaning of the word.

We have to pay attention to the fact that in Chinese there is a connection between stressed syllable and tone, where as such a connection is absent in Ukrainian language. It is important that this fact is recognised in Chinese language study materials aimed at a Ukrainian audience.

We have all reasons to say that syllables which are pronounced longer are perceived (are understood) as word stress. For example:

太阳 (4+2)$^1$ taiyang$^2$ /sun – during the speech the the first syllable is stressed, 说话 (1+4) shuohua /talk – second syllable is stressed. Unfortunately, learners of Chinese (Putonghua) often focus only on tone, neglecting to pay attention to stressed syllables. As Speshnev [3] showed there are three possible combinations of stressed (hard, soft) and unstressed syllables:

I. stressed syllable and unstressed 干净 (1+0) ganjing /clean, 爸爸 (1+0) baba /father, 妈妈 (1+0) mama /mother, 姐姐 (3+0) jiejie /sister.

II. hard stressed syllable and soft stressed. This type has sub types:

1. First syllable soft stressed, second-hard stressed. For example, 汉语 (2+3) hanyu /Chinese language, 老师 (3+1) laoshi /teacher, 地图 (2+4) ditu /map, 再见 (4+4) zaijian /goodbye, 商店 (1+4) shangdian /store.

2. Hard stress on first syllable, soft on a second syllable- noun: 朋友 (2+0) pengyou /friend, 学生 (2+0) xuesheng /student; verb – 介绍 (4+4) jieshao /to introduce, 学习 (4+4) xuexi /study.

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III. equally stressed syllables: 大小 (4+3) daxiao/size, 长短 (2+3) changduan/length.

In Chinese language the most widespread types of stress two syllables words are stressed syllable and unstressed (I) and soft stressed syllable with hard stressed (III).

The functions of word stress can also differ. Stress can help to distinguish lexical units, for example in Ukrainian – I. замок/castle (the first syllable is stress); II замок/lock (the second syllable is stressed, in Chinese:

I. 东西 (1+1) dongxi/ west-east II. 东西 (1+0) dongxi/ things;

I. 等等 (2+0) dengdeng/ wait II. 等等 (2+3)dongxi/ so on.

From examples we can see that in Chinese words when first syllable is stressed, second - unstressed (I), the transfer of stress on a second syllable change the word meaning (II).

We think that the biggest problem which Ukrainian audiences face in attempting to master Chinese relates to the fact that Ukrainian students tend not to pay sufficient attention to difference between word stress in Chinese language and their mother tongue language.

Consequently, Ukrainian students of Chinese often unwittingly apply stress in accordance with the conventions and patterns found in their mother-language, rather than in accordance with the rules of Chinese.

This is a serious error, which can often lead to complete misunderstanding when communicating with native speakers of Chinese.

CONCLUSION

To overcome difficulties we offer next steps:

1. in details to study the meaning of «tone» and «stress» in chinese language.
2. To pay attention on pacularities of word stress which are present in ukrainian language and are absent in chinese.
3. To mark word stress in Chinese dictionaries (it is a pity till now no such) as a mark we offer (‘). It is pretty hard to choose suitable mark, due to four tone in Chinese. For instance, in Ukrainian dictionaries word stress is indicated with an accute accent (’) on a syllable's vowel.

In spite of difference in comparative languages, they have a lot in common. In the end we would like to emphasis that the attention in research and study of word stress in not enough, even though word stress in extremely important in both languages.

References
