PAUSATION OF KEYWORDS IN BRITISH POLITICAL DISCOURSE

ПАУЗАЦІЯ КЛЮЧОВИХ СЛІВ В БРИТАНСЬКОМУ ПОЛІТИЧНОМУ ДИСКУРСІ

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The article is devoted to pauses as a means of communicative emphasizing of key words in political discourse. Pauses play an important role in the rhythmic organization of a public political utterance. A pause in public speech is used as a means of attracting the attention of listeners to an important part of the message. In the flow of speech, pauses carry a certain functional load – they are divided into syntactic, logical, emphatic and hesitation pauses. As is known, syntactic pauses play an important role in syntagmatic division, logical pauses – in highlighting the semantic elements of a sentence, emphatic pauses perform the function of emotional impact, hesitation pauses indicate the speaker's uncertainty in choosing linguistic means. In a prepared political speech special pauses are used that have a deliberate character; i.e. pragmatic pauses. These are linguistically relevant pauses, the implementation of which is conditioned by the communicative intention of the speaker and is oriented toward performing the function of influence. So when studying political discourse, the issue of the peculiarities of its intonational design is particularly acute.

The above-mentioned research allows us to state the following: 1) the duration of pauses depends on the location of the phonoparagraph or utterance in which it is contained, at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the speech; 2) there is a tendency to increase the duration of syntactic and emphatic pauses in the middle of the speech; 3) key words, especially important for achieving the perlocutionary effect, are highlighted by "double rhetorical silence"; 4) syntactic and psychological pauses are practically not used for the communicative actualization of key words; 5) the final part of the speech is characterized by the approximate uniformity of internal-syntagmatic and syntactic pauses.

We believe that further research in this area will allow us to develop algorithms for interpreting political speech based on the duration of pauses and their location.

Key words: pause, pause duration, keyword, political discourse, syntagma, communication.

Стаття присвячена паузації як засобу комунікативної актуалізації ключових слів. Важливу роль у ритмічної організації політичного дискурсу грає його паузація. Пауза у публічній мові використовується як засіб привернення уваги слухачів до важливої частини повідомлення. У потоці промови паузи несуть певну функціональне навантаження – вони діляться на синтаксичні, логічні, емфатичні та паузи коливання. Синтаксичні паузи відіграють важливу роль при синтагматичному членуванні, логічні – при виділення смислових елементів пропозиції, емфатичні виконують функцію емоційного впливу, паузи коливання вказують на невпевненість мовця при виборі мовних засобів. В підготовленій політичній промові, поряд з переліченими вище, використовуються особливого роду паузи, що мають характер навмисності, тобто прагматичні паузи. Це лінгвістично релевантні паузи, реалізація яких обумовлена комунікативною інтенцією мовця і орієнтована на виконання функції дії. Прагматична пауза, як правило, несе смислову навантаження (ствердження, привернення уваги до особливо важливих моментів висловлювання), є запланованим, її місце в текст обумовлений свідомим вибором говорить. Підсумовуючи все вищесказане, що при дослідженні політичного дискурсу особливо гостро стоїть питання про особливості його інтонаційного оформлення.

Проведене дослідження дозволяє стверджувати наступне: 1) тривалість пауз залежить від розташування висловлювання, тобто на початку, в середині чи в кінці промови; 2) спостерігається тенденція до збільшення тривалості синтаксичних та емфатичних пауз у середині мовлення; 3) ключові слова, особливо важливі для досягнення перлокутивного ефекту, виділені «подвійним риторичним мовчанням»; 4) синтаксичні та психологічні паузи практично не використовуються для комунікативної актуалізації опорних слів; 5) заключна частина промови характеризується приблизною рівномірністю внутрішньо-синтагматичних та синтаксичних пауз. Ми вважаємо, що подальші дослідження в цій галузі дозволять розробити алгоритми інтерпретації політичної промови на основі тривалості пауз та їх розташування.

Ключові слова: пауза, тривалість паузи, ключове слово, політичний дискурс, синтагма, комунікація.

In modern society, attention is being paid to political communication and, accordingly, interest in scientific problems in the field of political discourse studies is increasing. Linguists' subject of research is both general issues related to the study of the essence, structure and functions of political discourse, and more specific ones that concern specific types of political discourse, for example, discourses of national, supranational, regional identity, etc. [7, p. 156].

The relevance of the presented article is due to the focus of linguistic research on the study of British political discourse, in particular, the verbal and rhetorical strategies of British politicians, the mechanisms of generation and functioning of political texts, the speech behavior of British prime ministers, etc [1; 5; 6; 11]. Various aspects of British political discourse have been revealed which encourages the study of its essential characteristics, patterns of modeling and functioning [8, p. 80].

In the context of the new scientific paradigm, there is an interest in the implementation of linguistic units in a specific social and situational context of human communication. In this regard, public oratory, including the speech of politicians, is of great interest to the researcher. Political discourse is a special type of discourse that is implemented in the sphere of domestic and foreign policy activities. It is associated with a certain group of people – politicians – whose speech has individual characteristics, including pronunciation, but at the same time reflects the development trends of a particular language (or language variant, if we turn to the study of national-regional variants of the English language) as a whole. The speech of politicians, as it seems, is a kind of standard reflecting the norms of standard pronunciation in a given linguo-society. Due to the fact that the political establishment of the nation is represented mainly by its most educated citizens, it is logical to assume that their speech should be phonetically correct and can serve as a model. Pronunciation norms, like other language norms, are conservative and correspond to the orthoepic standard of the language spoken by the most educated part of society.

At the same time, pronunciation norms are dynamic and change due to a number of external (social) factors and internal trends in the development of the language system. It is known that the success of public speech as an oral form of communication largely depends on its intonation design. The results of many studies indicate that the success of politicians' speeches is determined, on the one hand, by the specifics of a particular speech, the corresponding stylistic and genre norms, and on the other hand, by the author's intention. It is important that all structural and substantive elements of speech are adequately designed prosodically, since it has been established that in oral speech it is intonation that serves as the key to the correct interpretation of the content of speech by the audience.

The generally accepted style of English political speech is the oratorical style, the purpose of which is to convey to the listener the speaker's thoughts, the desire to convince and win over the audience. To a large extent, this is achieved through intonation. If an oral public political speech is prepared in advance and is reproduced based on a written text, then, as a rule, it is distinguished by a moderate tempo, clear articulation and rhythmic organization (which is a consequence of constant control over speech), the presence of different types of stress on the most important parts of the utterance.

Studies by discourse scholars indicate that attention is being paid to the prosodic component of discourse [5; 8]. The prosody of a text takes a direct part in the implementation of the communicative task that indirectly faces the text, and ensures its success and communication. Among the many components of the prosody of a text, the temporal indicator is one of the most important. After all, the perception of the temporal indicator by the audience affects the interpretation of the discourse. We consider that the connection between the variability of the duration of pauses in political discourse and the location of the pause in the utterance, and the constituent part of the speech are of great importance for the actualization of keywords, which leads to the optimization of the discourse.

The subject of this article is the variability of pause duration in political discourse for the actualization of key words depending on the location of the pause in the utterance, and in the phonoparagraph at the beginning, middle or end of the speech.

The task of the article is to establish the regularities of the variability of pause duration and the influence of pause duration on the actualization of key words.

The study of tempo in English is inextricably linked to the analysis of the nature of pauses, the duration of sounding (pronunciation speed) of individual parts and the entire utterance, its rhythmic structure, that is, all intonational characteristics in which the temporal indicator finds its realization in speech [13, p. 10].

Communicative units that are larger than statements, are characterized by a constant rearrangement of communicative centers: the semantic structure of some statements turns out to be more important for creating an information continuum during the development of the discourse theme than the semantic structures of other statements. This is what forms the structure of the thematic-rhematic relations of communicative units larger than statements [14, p. 4102]. The main features of communicatively oriented functional units of the text in terms of content are their relative semantic completeness, and in terms of expression – discursive realization in the form of any supra-phrase unity or their set.

The semantic perception of speech occurs due to a certain division of the speech flow/utterance into units. One of the most powerful means of division is pausing. Pauses divide actual components (actual division), syntagms according to the degree of their importance and completeness / incompleteness (syntagmatic division), segments that in most cases do not form a semantic whole – parts of syntagms (division by hesitation pauses) [15, p. 312].

A pause as a means of intonational organization of speech is essentially a break in sound or an intonational division of the speech stream [12, p. 52]. The effect of a pause can be created in three ways: 1) stopping the signal for a certain (short) time, i.e. reducing the intensity to zero; 2) by sharp changes in the melody, tempo, intensity of the signal (which does not reach zero); by the junction of two relatively independent word combinations (without special acoustic indicators) [3, p. 67].

Thus, a pause acoustically denotes: the cessation of phonation, physiologically denotes the cessation of articulation, and phonetically it may not have the above-mentioned features. Listeners clearly perceive a pause even when the sound of the voice does not stop. Therefore, this feature has led to the differentiation of pauses into unfilled (absolute, physical) and filled (quasi-pauses, psychological) [2, p. 60-61]. According to J. Laver, the absence of unfilled (silent) and filled pauses, as well as non-linguistic extensions of linguistic elements of utterances, characterizes the so-called continuous or connected speech [15, p. 536].

The duration of a pause may depend on the following factors: 1) the size of the semantic unit (after larger units, the pause is usually longer than after shorter ones); 2) the nature of the phrases of the text, the degree of the speaker's mastery of the text, the individual characteristics of the speaker (pauses are usually short in well-structured speech and in speech containing many clichés); 3) the emotionality of the text (in emotional texts, pauses are longer); 4) the nature of the pause (a hesitation pause is usually longer than a logical pause). The duration of the pause does not exceed 2-3 seconds (the duration of the syntagm does not exceed this value) [15, p. 48]. According to the duration of pauses, they are divided into: a) short and long (dichotomous classification); b) short, medium and long (trichotomous classification); c) very short, small, medium, large, long pauses (five-digit classification) [2, p. 47].

Researchers argue that in a specific utterance, a pause can have several meanings at the same time [4]. For example, an intersyntagmatic pause can be combined with an emotional pause, if it is necessary to express the speaker's emotional state. In political discourse, a complex functioning of pausing occurs, when the pause simultaneously acts both as a means of actual division of the message, and a means of contrast of the topic and rheme of the discourse, as well as a means of ensuring corresia, and thus, actualizes the keyword [13, p. 8]. In accordance with the above-mentioned classifications and properties of pauses, we rely on a generalized classification

of pauses: 1) from the point of view of physiology: breathing pauses and others; 2) from the point of view of the presence / absence of a temporal component in the composition of a pause: temporal (short, small, medium, long, long) and non-temporal (quasi-pauses); 3) from the point of view of communicative pragmatic conditionality of the location of a pause – phonetic and intersermental pauses, which are divided into pauses of the actual articulation of speech (syntactic, intersermental and predicative), psychological pauses and pauses of hesitation.

The temporal indicator is pausing and total duration of the sounding of phonetic paragraphs at the beginning, middle and end of a political speech. We proceed from the fact that the linear nature of the development of discourse implies some changes in the duration of pauses at the beginning, middle and end of the speech. In order to attract attention of the audience at the beginning of the speech, the pauses should be longer. In the middle of the speech, according to the speech algorithm proposed by Aristotle, the pauses should be even longer in order to give the audience the opportunity to check the correctness of their predictions on the one hand, and to achieve the effect of «false expectations» on the part of the speaker, on the other hand. At the end of the speech, where the previous statements are usually summarized and conclusions are drawn, the pauses are even longer, this helps the audience identify with the speaker's ideas, as if they let them pass through them.

The temporal indicator of speech is of great importance for the transmission of the array of extralinguistic components of discourse. After all, the acceleration and deceleration of the pace of speech, the variability of the duration of pauses indicate the attitude of the speaker to the information that he / she transmits. In political discourse, this is of extraordinary importance. In political discourse, the temporal indicator is one of the most important means of contrast / opposition of lexical units with zero stylistic marking (theme of discourse) and the rhematic component of the message [10]. A feature of political discourse is that the thematic component of the message, when presented again, usually becomes a key word, which is highlighted either by a pause or by a combination of prosodic means (terminal tone and pause, for example). Sometimes key words are highlighted by "double rhetorical silence" [9]. This technique allows, firstly, to create a solemn impression of the speech, and secondly, to give the audience the opportunity to "anticipate" the appearance of the key word and figure out its meaning for themselves.

Key words allow, provided that the background knowledge of the speaker and the audience is the same,

to predict the optimal interpretation of the message by the addressee on the one hand, and the possibility of pronouncing this interpretation by the speaker, which makes it possible to make the necessary adjustments to encoding of the message during communication. To verify the above provisions, we have chosen the speech of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of the session of the British Parliament. The total duration of the speech recording is 20 minutes. The computer program WINCecil was used to measure the duration of pauses in this speech.

«My Government's priority | has always been to secure the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union on 31 October|| . My Government | intends to work towards a new partnership with the European Union | , based on free trade and friendly cooperation ||. My Ministers | will work to implement new regimes for fisheries |, agriculture and trade |, seizing the opportunities that arise from leaving the European Union || . An immigration bill |, will lay the foundation for a fair, modern and global immigration system ||. Steps will be taken | to provide certainty, stability and new opportunities for the financial services and legal sectors ||.

My Government's new economic plan | will be underpinned by a responsible fiscal strategy |, investing in economic growth | while maintaining the sustainability of the public finances ||. Measures will be brought forward | to support and strengthen the National Health Service |, its workforce and resources|, enabling it to deliver the highest quality care ||. New laws | will be taken forward | to help implement the National Health Service's Long Term Plan in England |, and to establish an independent body to investigate serious healthcare incidents ||. My Government | will bring forward proposals | to reform adult social care in England | to ensure dignity in old age ||. My Ministers | will continue work to reform the Mental Health Act | to improve respect for, and care of those receiving treatment ||. A new duty | will be placed on public sector bodies |, ensuring they work together to address serious violence ||. Police officers | will be provided with the protections they need | to keep the population safe||. They will also be awarded the power | to arrest individuals who are wanted by trusted international partners ||. My Government | will bring forward measures | to protect individuals, families and their homes||. Legislation will transform the approach | of the justice system and other agencies to victims of domestic abuse |, and minimize the impact of divorce |, particularly on children ||. My Ministers | will continue to develop proposals | to improve internet safety |, and will bring forward laws | to implement new building safety standards ||».

Analysis of the speech using special computer programs for acoustic analysis showed that the duration of intra-syntagmatic pauses is from 0.100 to 0.800 ms, and the duration of syntactic pauses is from 2200 to 2600 ms. The duration of thematic-rhematic pauses is on average 0.500 ms. Key words are practically not highlighted by special rhetorical techniques, such as, for example, "rhetorical silence", when the key word is highlighted by two pauses. In the middle of the speech, this indicator changed.

"My Ministers will ensure | (0,500 мс) that all young people have access to an excellent education | (0,400 мс), unlocking their full potential and preparing them for the world of work. || (2,000 мс) My Government | (0,100 мс) will take steps to make work fairer | (0,300 мс), introducing measures that will support those working hard || (0,800 мс). To help people plan for the future | (0,800 мс), measures will be brought forward | (0,500 мс) to provide simpler oversight of pensions savings || (1,000 мс). To protect people's savings for later life | (0,800 мс), new laws will provide greater powers | (0,400 мс), to tackle irresponsible management of private pension schemes|| (1,000 мс). To ensure | (0,300 мс) that the benefits of a prospering economy reach every corner of the United Kingdom | (0,800 мс), my Ministers will bring forward a National Infrastructure Strategy || (1,000 мс). This will set out a long-term vision | (1,000 мс) to improve the nation's digital | (0,500), transport and energy infrastructure || (2,500 мс). New legislation | (0,300 мс) will help accelerate the delivery of fast | (0,400), reliable and secure broadband networks to millions of homes || (2,500 мс).

An aviation bill | (0,500 мс) will provide for the effective and efficient management of Unmanned Aircraft Bill || (3,000 мс). Proposals on railway reform | (0,800 мс) will be brought forward || (1,000 мс). A white paper | (0,500 мс) will be published to set out my Government's ambitions for unleashing regional potential in England | (2,500 мс), and to enable decisions that affect local people to be made at a local level || (3,500 мс). My Government | (0,100 мс) is committed to establishing the United Kingdom as a world-leader in scientific capability and space technology || (3,000 мс). Increased investment in science | (0,300 мс) will be complemented by the development of a new funding agency | (0,500 мс), a more open visa system (0,800 мс), and an ambitious national space strategy || (3,500 мс).

My Ministers remain committed | (0,500 мс) to protecting and improving the environment for future generations || (1,000 мс). For the first time | (0,300 мс), environmental principles will be enshrined in law || (2,500 мс). Legislation will also create new

environmental improvement targets || (3,500 мс). A new, world-leading independent regulator | (0,500 мс) will be established in statute to scrutinize environmental policy and law | (1,500 мс), investigate complaints and take enforcement action || (3,500 мс). Proposals will also be brought forward | (1,000 мс) to protect the welfare of animals | (0,600), including banning imports from trophy hunting || (3,500 мс). My Ministers | (0,300 мс) will bring forward measures | (0,800 мс) to support citizens across all the nations of the United Kingdom (1,500 мс)" ||.

In comparison with the beginning of speech, the indicators change as follows. The duration of intra-syntactic pauses is from 0.500 to 1.100 ms, and the duration of syntactic pauses is from 2.500 to 3000 ms. The duration of thematic-rhematic pauses is on average 0.500 ms. It should be noted that the duration of pauses between phonoparagraphs is practically equal to the duration of pauses between syntagms, which indicates that the speaker combines individual phonoparagraphs into a separate communicative block. In the middle of a speech, some words are sometimes, depending on the semantic load and the relative importance of the key word for the further interpretation of the discourse, highlighted by the so-called «rhetorical silence».

"My Government | (0,300 мс) remains committed to working with all parties in Northern Ireland | (1,500 мс) to support the return of devolved government and to address the legacy of the past || (1,500 мс). My Government | (0,200 мс) will take steps to protect the integrity of democracy | (2,500 мс) and the electoral system in the United Kingdom || (1,500 мс). My Government | (0,100 мс) will continue to invest in our gallant Armed Forces || (1,000 мс). My Ministers | (0,300 мс) will honor the Armed Forces Covenant and the NATO commitment | (0,500) to spend at least two per cent of national income on defense || (2,500 мс).

As the United Kingdom leaves the European Union (0,500 мс), my Government will ensure (0,200 мс) that it continues to play a leading role in global affairs (1,500 мс), defending its interests and promoting its values (1,500 мс). My Government | (0,100 мс) will be at the forefront of efforts (0,300) | to solve the most complex international security issues || (1,000 мс). It will champion global free trade and work | (0,500 мс) alongside international partners to solve the most pressing global challenges || (2,500 мс). It will prioritize | (0,200 мс) tackling climate change and ensuring that all girls | (0,200 мс) have access to twelve years of quality education || (1,000 мс).

I pray | (0,200 мс) that the blessing of Almighty God | (0,100 мс) may rest upon your counsels || (1,500 мс)".

At the end of the speech, the duration of pauses changes again. The duration of intra-syntagmatic pauses on average does not exceed 0.500 ms, and the duration of syntactic pauses is from 1.500 to 2.500 ms. The duration of thematic-rhematic pauses is on average 0.200 ms. We explain this by the fact that at the final stage of the speech the main task of the speaker is to accumulate all the previous content of the message, therefore the temporal component of the pause tends to increase only at the junction of phonoparagraphs in order to contrast the content and enhance the impact on the audience. In this case, double rhetorical silence was used to emphatically highlight the key word.

Conclusions. The study has showed that syntactic pauses are practically not used as a marker of the communicative actualization of a keyword due to the predictability of the appearance of such a pause in the text. It should be noted that hesitation pauses are also rarely used to highlight keywords. The most frequent are intersyntagmatic and intrasyntagmatic pauses, the latter being used to create the effect of "rhetorical silence".

The above-mentioned research allows us to state the following: 1. The duration of pauses depends on the location of the phonoparagraph or utterance in which it is contained, at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the speech.

2. There is a tendency to increase the duration of syntactic and emphatic pauses in the middle of the speech, while the duration of intra-syntagmatic pauses may vary depending on the speaker's intention and his attitude to the information contained in the utterance.

3. Key words, especially important for achieving the perlocutionary effect, are highlighted by "double rhetorical silence".

4. Syntactic and psychological pauses are practically not used for the communicative actualization of key words. At the same time, internal-syntagmatic pauses are used to create the effect of "rhetorical silence".

5. The final part of the speech is characterized by the approximate uniformity of internal-syntagmatic and syntactic pauses. We believe that further research in this area will allow us to develop algorithms for interpreting political speech based on the duration of pauses and their location.

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