

SPEECH PERCEPTION BASED ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF ONOMASTIC UNITS

Kamalova Sanobar Jabborovna

Bukhara State University Doctor of Philological Sciences (PhD), Associate Professor

Abstract

This article analyzes speech perception based on the identification of onomastic units from a linguistic and cognitive perspective. The study emphasizes the role of anthroponyms in understanding speech content, as well as their communicative and pragmatic functions. It is argued that onomastic units serve as an important carrier of information in speech, helping the listener or reader quickly and accurately understand the text. The article also examines the concepts that arise during speech perception through onomastic units, as well as their national and cultural characteristics. The results of the study have significant implications for speech analysis, translation processes, and linguistic didactics.

Keywords: anthroponym, tarzhima, cognitive mechanisms, identification, onomastic units, theoretical considerations, linguistic contribution, speech perception.

Аннотация

В данной статье анализируется процесс восприятия речи на основе идентификации ономастических единиц с лингвистической и когнитивной точек зрения. Исследование подчеркивает роль антропонимов в понимании содержания речи, их коммуникативные и прагматические функции. Утверждается, что ономастические единицы служат важным носителем информации в речи, помогая слушателю или читателю быстро и правильно понять текст. В статье также рассматриваются возникающие в процессе восприятия речи посредством ономастических единиц, а также их национальные и культурные особенности. Результаты исследования имеют большое значение для анализа речи, процессов перевода и лингвистической дидактики.

Ключевая слова: антропоним, таржима, когнитивные механизмы, идентификация, ономастических единиц, теоретические соображения, Лингвистическим вкладом, восприятия речи.

Proper names are a source of numerous interpreter errors. This phenomenon is significant because proper names are ubiquitous at conferences (names of organizers, delegates, various organizations, companies, products, places mentioned in presentations, etc.), and participants seem to strive to reproduce them correctly. This article highlights aspects of this problem based on the results of an experiment conducted using a conference recording. Theoretical considerations are offered to help explain these difficulties, drawing on published work on speech perception, information theory, and the concept of "interpretive balance." This theoretical discussion is followed by a description of the tactics used by interpreters when working with proper names. The conclusion aligns with the author's parallel reflection on technical terms in interpreting, emphasizing the vital importance of documentation for conference interpreters.

An overview of the basic mechanisms of speech perception can usefully shed light on the difficulties in producing proper names observed among interpreters working simultaneously. Speech perception does not consist of the complete and passive reception of an acoustic signal that uniquely corresponds to a sequence of words or syllables; in fact, physical and physiological phenomena cause the sounds produced to represent a speech segment to vary from one speaker to another and even from one moment to another for the same speaker (Huton & Lienard, 1979). Moreover, the information conveyed by each signal segment relates not only to the corresponding speech segment but also to adjacent speech segments (Lieberman et al., 1967). The listener interprets perceived sounds based on certain physical characteristics, "discriminative features" (which essentially correspond to changes in frequency and signal intensity), following phonological, lexical, syntactic, and semantic rules (Studdert-Kennedy, 1974: 50). These rules are probabilistic in nature: perceived distinctive features are interpreted according to a set of possibilities, some of which are more probable than others. The probability profile is determined by:

- The linguistic contribution of the context: learning a language involves acquiring a system that assigns absolute and transitive probabilities of occurrence to words, phonemes, letters, and syllables (Hörmann, 1972).

- The listener's cognitive background, consisting of their extralinguistic knowledge prior to verbal exchange and knowledge provided by the context, superimposes a very powerful extralinguistic probabilistic system on the linguistic probabilistic system (cf. Slama-Kazaku, 1961).

These probabilistic systems play a crucial role in speech perception, since they largely determine what the listener "hears" (Hörmann 1972: 79), sometimes despite the characteristics of the physical sound emitted: in an experimental setup, an acoustic segment consisting of a cough followed by the English syllable "ite" was included in a sentence about ferocious dogs, and subjects were observed to clearly "hear" the words "buite" or "fight" (Warren 1970); similar "linguistic illusions" are also noted by Miller and Skinner. The importance of probabilistic structures in simultaneous interpreting has been emphasized by a number of interpreting researchers, both in relation to linguistic and semantic anticipation, which allows for an increasingly accurate understanding of meaning as the speaker expresses his or her thought (see Lederer 1978), and in relation to the reconstruction of a message segment based on the received cues and the interpreter's cognitive experience (Seleskovitch 1975; Thiéry 1981; Lederer 1981). From this perspective, the study of proper names, which are stable words or groups of words, requires the introduction of the concepts of "internal redundancy" and "external redundancy." In information theory, redundancy is what allows certain signal elements to be assigned higher probabilities than others. If the degree of redundancy in a linguistic sequence is zero, all events in it are equally probable; if the degree of redundancy is 100%, the sequence is completely predictable from an informational point of view and contains no new information. In this sense, acoustic, lexical, syntactic, stylistic, and semantic features allow us to predict or reconstruct

1) Simple Proper Names (Les noms propres simples)

These are "natural" proper names, created to refer to a person, place, object, organism, etc. ("John," "Paris," "Apollo," etc.). A "simple" proper name can also consist of two or more natural proper names (in Western languages, each person is typically designated by one or more

given names, a surname, and possibly a spouse's surname). From an informational perspective, simple proper names are typically characterized by a low degree of internal and external redundancy: internal linguistic redundancy is primarily due to the phonological rules of the language in which they were created. External linguistic redundancy is limited and episodic (mainly grammatical inflections indicating function and gender). Therefore, simple proper names are very vulnerable to lapses in the listener's attention, as this results in them missing information that would be difficult for adjacent signal segments to recover. For similar reasons, simple proper names are poorly resilient to various physical signal interferences (faulty electronic equipment, regional and foreign accents, various types of noise).

2) Compound Proper Nouns

These are multi-word groups (usually 3 to 5 or 6 words) consisting primarily of common nouns and linking words, sometimes with one or two simple proper names in sequence ("North Atlantic Treaty Organization").

From an informational perspective, compound proper names also benefit from only a low degree of external linguistic redundancy, but significant internal redundancy:

- Phonological rules clearly influence the common nouns that make up compound proper names.

- From a lexical perspective, the high frequency of a limited number of words in compound proper names (organization, institution, association, international, regional, etc.) increases the likelihood of their occurrence and thus facilitates their recovery in cases of hearing loss. — The logical and grammatical connections between the elements of compound proper names also facilitate their reconstruction.

Compound proper names are significantly less susceptible to lapses in listener concentration and signal distortion than simple proper names. However, the results presented above, as well as field observations, show that the error rate in recognizing compound proper names is at least equal to the error rate in recognizing simple proper names. This phenomenon is explained by factors related not to standard speech perception, but to the specific limitations of simultaneous interpreting.

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