A Study of Easy and Correct Pronunciation Techniques in Teaching Reading in Russian Language

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Abstract

It is mainly presented that the way of systematic phonology [1](the system of pronunciation) teaching to Myanmar students learning Russian Language from basic level in order for correct pronunciation, to be proficient the Russian Grammar's basic specifications like word, phrase, conjunction, short sentence and paragraph easily comprehensively from the aforementioned one, emphasis on sound [2](stress) which is crucial in pronouncing sentences, and to pronounce correctly [3](intonation) important for reading and communication. Meaning difference from different stress in the same spelling and differences in assumed meanings from the different intonations in the sentence are explained and presented with examples. This research is presented by Descriptive Method by employing prescribed books, dictionaries, and facts from internet websites. There are implications that it is necessary to practise techniques of pronunciation and pronounce correctly and differently with instinct sounds systematically from the basic, and the way of teaching it is suggested: systematic teaching pronunciation via correcting the wrong pronunciation of students; individual or group; by deploying teaching aids.

Key Words: Phonetics, Stress, Intonation Construction, Easy and Correct Pronunciation Techniques

1. Introduction

Correct start-up pronunciation of utterances is crucial for Myanmar students being the beginners in learning Russian Language. Better teaching methods with nature of utterances by analyzing limitations in order to read fluently without hesitation, and to acquire correct pronunciation in introducing teaching Reading Aloud.

Aim

It is aimed to notice how important the correct pronunciation is and notice in emphasis meaning difference due to intonation and the place of stress in the same spelling, stress, and intonation in pronouncing Russian words, and sentences by Myanmar students.

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1 Phonetics

2 Stress

3 Intonation Construction

Data Collection and Data Analysis

This paper collects the data based on the challenges of teaching to get correct pronunciation for Myanmar students being the beginners in learning Russian Language. Differences in pronunciation, questioning and speaking in Russian Language are compared. By explaining and practising intonation that is important in Russian Language, it is also presented the ways to solve errors. Descriptive Method is applied using data from Prescribed Texts, Dictionaries and Internet Websites.

Research Questions

    (1) Why is emphasis on utterances important?

    (2) How many places of stress are there in one word?

    (3) What kind of changes will it be if the place of stress changes?

    (4) How intonation and normal speech sounds are different?

    (5) What is the peculiarity of intonation?

Ways to Pronounce

In order to develop reading rates of students who are learning Russian Language, ways of teaching pronunciation easily from basic like pronouncing vowels, consonants which are very similar to English pronunciation, diphthongs, stress, я, е, ё, ю (semi-vowel), voiceless consonants, voiced consonants, intonation are presented in seven stages.

Stage (1) Pronouncing Russian Vowels

There are 33 letters in Russian Language. It includes voiceless consonants, voiced consonants, soft and hard consonants. There are 42 sounds including 18 hard consonants, 18 soft consonants and 6 vowels. In teaching pronunciation, it starts to train pronouncing vowels correctly.

Русские согласные (Russian Consonants)

ц, ч, щ, х, к, т, с, ш, п, ф (voiceless consonants)

г, д, з, ж, б, в, л, р, м, н, й (voiced consonants)

ц, ш, ж, к, г, х, т, д, с, з, п, б, ф, в, л, р, м, н (hard consonants)

к, г, х, т, д, с, з, п, б, ф, в, л, р, м, н, ч, щ, й (soft consonants)

Русские гласные (Russian Vowels)

а, о, у, э, ы, и (Vowels)

я, ё, ю, е (Semi-vowels)

Русские гласные звуки (Russian Vowels)

Аа « а » а-а-а   а-о-у   ао-оа

Оо « о » о-о-о   о-у-а   уо-оу

Уу « у » у-у-у   у-о-а   оа-оу,…..

Stage (2) Consonants which are nearly similar to English letters

If students have correct pronunciation in vowel, they are trained systematically to have correct pronunciation and how to write letters of Russian alphabets which are nearly similar to English Language. In teaching readings skills, teaching how to write the letters are related to each other.

Consonants which are nearly similar to English letters

Бб   Вв   Кк   Лл   Мм   Нн   Сс   Фф

/ b /   / v /   / k /   / l /   / m /   / n /   / s /   / f /

Stage (3) Pronouncing Consonants with Vowels

In a language, syllable is constructed by combining consonant and vowel sounds. Students are trained practically the pronunciation from which consonant and vowel sounds are combined.

For example – М

М + « **а**» = Ма   ,   « **а**» + М = аМ

М + « **о**» = Мо   ,   « **о**» + М = оМ

Stage (4) Pronouncing Stress

Although there may be more than one syllable in a word ifconsonant and vowel sounds are combined, stress is on the vowel sound focusing on one syllable.

One syllable	Two syllables		Three syllables		
—´	—´	—	—´	—	—
М**а**к	м**а**	ма	к**о**м	на	та
ум	п**а**	па	х**о**	лод	но
н**а**	л**а**м	па	б**а**	буш	ка

There is a syllable according to the number of vowel in a word. There is more than one syllable in words. It can be constructed one vowel with more than two consonants. In addition, the end of syllable can be found in words that end with consonant.

For example,

да, дом, кни-га, ра-бо-та, пре-по-да-ва-тель, гу-ба, ком-на-та, мо-ло-ко,..

Emphasizing on sound means putting stress on one syllable of the vowel sound in a word.There is one stress in every word. Putting stress may not be on the same place and it can change. If stress changes, meaning of the word will change. Stress is marked as the symbol
(').

по́лка = Book Shelf   полк**а**´ = The Army Corps

хлоп**о**´к = Applause   хл**о**´пок = Cotton

здор**о**´во = Greetings   зд**о**´рово = Very Good

Stage (5) Pronouncing according to я, е, ё, ю (semi-vowel)

In Russian Language, there is one syllable in a word normally. But there may be one or two syllables in a word according to **я, е, ё, ю.**

Я, е, ё, ю are at the beginning of the word and put stress, ь, ъ and after vowel and put s tress, there will be two syllables. There is no sound in **ь, ъ.**
For example,

е´герь = Hunter

объявл**е**´ние = Announcement

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1 Syllable

If **я, е, ё, ю** (semi-vowel) are after consonants, these consonants sounds describes voiceless and have to pronounce voiceless sounds.

<div align="center">

Хле**б**   **^** хле**п** ^

дев**я**ть   **^** дев**и**т ^

</div>

Stage (6) Pronouncing Voiced and Voiceless Consonants

In Russian Language, there are Voiced and Voiceless Consonants. Voiceless sounds are the sounds without the function of vocal cords; voiced sounds are sounds with the function of vocal cords.

<div align="center">

Voiced and Voiceless Consonants

</div>

Voiceless Consonants   ц ч щ х к т с ш п ф

Voiced   Consonants   г д з ж б в л р м н й

In Russian Language, consonants are the combination of Voiced and Voiceless Consonants. If Voiced Consonants in this combination are at the end of the word, it is pronounced in Voiceless Sounds.

For example,

<div align="center">

п – б   ку**б** «ку**п**» = Cube   (Voiceless)

ш – ж   но**ж** «но**ш**» = Knives (Voiced)

</div>

If there is no stress on the vowel sound]**o** } ,] **o** } sound has to pronounce]**a** }.

For example,

<div align="center">

м**о**лок**о**´   « м**а**л**а**ко »   =   Milk

**о**кн**о**´   « **а**кно»   =   Window

к**о**лбас**а**´   « к**а**лбаса»   =   Sausage

</div>

Stage (7) Pronouncing Rising and Falling Tone

In Russian Language, Rising and Falling Tone means the action of sound in sentence pattern. Among seven different types of Rising and Falling Tone, the five main types are presented.

Rising and Falling Tone (1)

It is used in normal sentence. Rising and Falling Tone is found in a final word that is at the end of the sentence. It is pronounced the syllable before the central in normal tone but the syllable after the central becomes falling slowly.
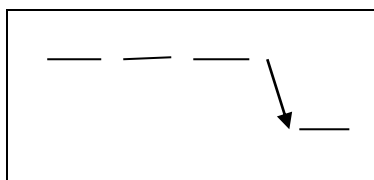
Это   д**о**м.   -   This is house.
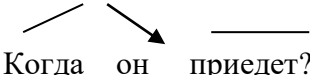
Он   вр**а**ч.   -   He is doctor.

Он   приедет   сегодня. - He will get today.

Rising and Falling Tone (2)
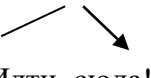
It is used in questions which include question word, etiquettes, the mindfulness of the speaker, direct speech and encouragement. Stress is on the syllable of the main word to ask. Stress is put by raising the tone slightly and the syllable of the word after the stress has to pronounce using falling tone than in normal.
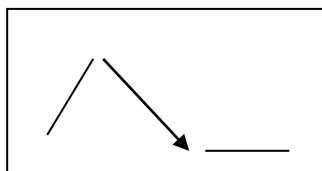
Когда он приедет? When he will arrive?
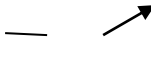
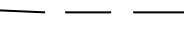Здравствуйте! How do you do!

Антон! Anthon!
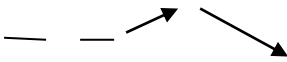
Идти сюда! Come here!

Rising and Falling Tone (3)

It is used in the form of speaking as a question without question word. The center of Rising and Falling Tone is on the stress of the word that is to be known and the stress has to rise distinctly. The syllable before the center of Rising and Falling Tone has to pronounce in normal, the syllable after the center has to pronounce using falling tone. The center of Rising and Falling Tone can be changeable according to the word that is to be asked mainly. By asking this way, the main question and answer will change.
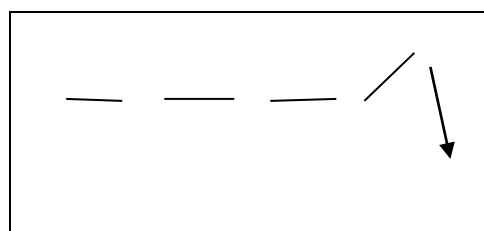
Это дом? - This is House?

Да, это дом. - Yes, it is house.

Он приедет сегодня? - Will he arrive today?

Rising ad Falling Tone (4)

Rising and Falling Tone (4) is mostly used for incomplete questions with the conjunction 'A'. The center of Rising and Falling Tone is on the stressed syllable of the word that is to be asked. If the main word to be asked is at the end of the sentence, stress on that word should be rising.

For example,

А вы?   - And You?

А это?   - That one?

А завтра?   - Tomorrow?

    The syllable before the centre of rising and falling tone has to pronounce normally, stress should be put on the word to be asked.

For example,

В семье   папа^4,   мама^4,   брат^4 и я^1.
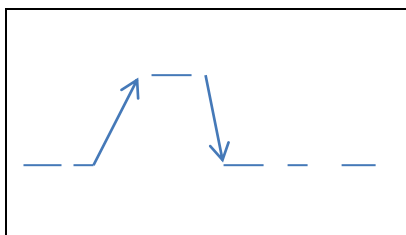
There are my father, my mother, my brother and me in the family.

В этом городе он увидел много дровцов, соборов, памятников.

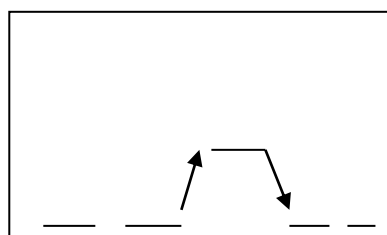He saw palace, temple and monument in this city.

Rising and Falling Tone (5)

Позитивное значение   Негативное значение

Meaning from positive point of view   Meaning from negative point of view

Rising and Falling Tone (5) is used to describe point of view (positive + negative). It affects both positive and negative point of views. The meaning is different according to the stress (soft/ hard) although it is the same sentence.

For example,

Какая погода! What a beautiful weather!
(Прекрасна!   The weather is fine.)

 Какая погда! What kind of weather is it?
(Очень плохая! What a terrible weather!)

Rising and Falling Tone (5) is used for exclamation, surprise and sound appears immediately.

Ох, уж этот Антон!   Oh! This Anton is!

If the students know how to pronounce each and every syllable, sentences can be constructed. In order to have correct pronunciation, and to be able to pronounce correctly stress, intonation, short utterance and long utterance, students are trained by practicing with short paragraphs.

For example,

Это дом.- It is a house.

Вот комната.- There is room here.

Это студент и студентка.- They are students.

F   Это мой брат.- That's my brother.

Speaking Practice and questioning are practised to have correct tone and fluency.

For example,

- Когда жарко?   When hot?

- Летом. In summer.

- Когда холодно? When coldly?

- Зимой. In winter.

- Летом жарко, а зимой холодно. In summer hot, but in winter coldly.

Finding and Discussion

When Russian words are started to teach, Myanmar Students who start to learn Russian Language especially freshmen years have some difficulties in pronouncing some Russian words and commit some mistakes because English Language and Myanmar Language do not have these pronunciation. Difficulties and errors are found in production of voiceless and voiced consonants due to wrong place of articulation and wrong manner of articulation especially in flap, velars, nasals, labials and dentals. To get correct pronunciation, teachers can demonstrate the manner of articulation with detailed description and teach how they can practise and imitate the teacher and some audios or audio-visuals via teaching aids. Intonation should also be taught and practised through correcting repeated imitation as an individual, a group and a class. It is necessary for the teachers to teach carefully in order to improve reading skill especially stress and intonation.

The meaning of the word may vary according to the stress. There needs to have one place to put stress in a word. As it plays an important role to put a stress in a word correctly, it is necessary to pronounce carefully using intonation when pronouncing a sentence. It is nothing strange to pronounce a sentence but the meaning may change according to intonation. A sentence cannot be pronounced normally. The meaning will change according to the intonation although the sentence is the similar. Therefore it is clear that teaching stress and intonation to have correct pronunciation is very important to improve reading skill. To improve reading skill, it is suggested to use more effective teaching techniques that have been found out to solve the difficulties more than the teaching techniques practicing nowadays.

Conclusion

It is found out that in teaching Russian Alphabets to Myanmar students being the beginners in learning Russian Language, vowels should be taught first from the easiest to the most difficult instead of teaching alphabets orderly, then consonants which are nearly similar to English letters and Russian letters which have similar pronunciation to English language, students should be trained systematically from basic how to write letters of Russian alphabets and to have correct pronunciation, and it is necessary to teach ways to pronounce and how to differentiate the utterances. By reading this paper, it is believed that Myanmar students who start learning Russian Language from basic can be able to understand easily reading skill which is one of the most important skills in 4 skills.

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