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## PHONEMIC AND ACCENTUAL DEVIATIONS IN UKRAINIAN SPEAKERS' PRONUNCIATIONS OF ENGLISH WORDS

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**ПАРАЩУК Валентина. ФОНЕМНІ Й АКЦЕНТНІ ДЕВІАЦІЇ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ СЛІВ У ВИМОВІ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ МОВЦІВ**

Стаття присвячена опису фонемних і акцентних відхилень у структурах слів в українському варіанті англійської мови як іноземної – *Ukrainian English (UkrE)*. Системний характер девіацій зафіксовано в лексичній підсистемі запозичень-інтернаціоналізмів і складних слів. Рекурентними фонетичними маркерами адаптації на рівні фонемної структури слова в англійській вимові українських мовців виступають зміни голосних у ненаголошених і наголошених позиціях; на рівні акцентної структури слова – кількість і ступінь наголосу. У комунікативному аспекті описані відхилення не порушують зрозумілості мовлення, а скоріше слугують вимовними маркерами UkrE як ксенолекту.

Ключові слова: фонемні й акцентні структури слів, девіації, слова-інтернаціоналізми, складні слова, маркери ксенолекту.

**PARASHCHUK Valentyna. PHONEMIC AND ACCENTUAL DEVIATIONS IN UKRAINIAN SPEAKERS' PRONUNCIATIONS OF ENGLISH WORDS**

The paper presents a description of phonemic and accentual deviations from the standard pronunciation of such lexical groups as internationalisms, and compounds in the speech of Ukrainian EFL users.

A contrastive analysis between the English standard pronunciations of internationalisms and their realizations in the speech of UkrE users conducted in this study has indicated that recurrent phonetic markers of adaptation on the level of the word phonemic structure comprise changes in the pronunciation of certain stressed and unstressed vowels; and on the level of the word accentual patterns, there are changes of the number and degree of lexical stress. The findings revealed that UkrE users often employ the analogy rule for main stress assignment in English pronunciations of internationalisms, i.e. they rely on stress patterns of phonologically similar words in Ukrainian. In case when English and Ukrainian employ different accentual patterns for similar words, this user strategy results in pronunciation deviations. The analogy rule is also in operation during UkrE learners' adaptation of the phonemic structures of internationalisms. They tend to assign sounds to the English letters a, e, i, o, u under the influence of Ukrainian graphemes in similar internationalisms. UkrE speakers' pronunciations of compounds is a source of both potential pronunciation deviations, and errors. A recurring adaptation involves using late stress in compound internationalisms that have corresponding words in Ukrainian.

Most of the adaptations that UkrE speakers tend to resort to while pronouncing internationalisms can be treated as deviations, whereas the misplacement of lexical stress in compounds can result in an error of changing them into phrases, thus impeding understanding.

Keywords: phonemic and accentual word structures, deviations, internationalisms, compounds, markers of xenolect.

### INTRODUCTION

Present-day English belongs to unique lingual phenomena due to the number of its national, regional, local variants and models, used in social communication, and also due to the fact that the number of its users as a foreign language exceeds the numbers of its L1 and L2 speakers [4, p. 61]. The global spread of English has caused the emergence of numerous national variants of English as a foreign language (henceforth – EFL), for instance, *French English, Spanish English, German English, Indian English, Russian English, Ukrainian English*, etc. According to a new sociolinguistic postulate, a variant of English is defined as a sociolinguistic functional formation that has an imprint of an indigenous /local language and is adjusted to reflect a local culture, all variants being equal from sociolinguistic and linguacultural perspectives [3, c. 201; 9]. They display a set of lexical, grammatical, and phonetic distinctions, among which pronunciation features play a leading role in EFL speakers' ethnic group identification [see also: 8, p. 1].

A detailed description of pronunciation peculiarities of *Ukrainian English* (henceforth – UkrE) as one of the EFL variants belongs to key research objectives of contrastive phonetics, social phonetics, linguistic variantology. UkrE pronunciation features has been in the focus of research by Ukrainian phoneticians, predominantly in terms of segmental and prosodic interference (negative transfer) of corresponding means of Ukrainian on the level of utterances and phonemes (see research studies by O. R. Valihura [1]; V. Yu. Kochubei [2] and others). Few studies have examined the level of “phonetics of words”, i.e. the realization of English word phonemic and accentual patterns by EFL prospective teachers within the framework of *usage vs. norm*. Thus, the purpose of this study is to systematize typical cases of deviant/erroneous pronunciation of word phonemic and accentual structures of internationalisms, and compounds by Ukrainian pre-service EFL teachers that will help predict points of difficulty for UkrE learners and use the results in order to improve teaching materials.

### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Internationalisms, and compounds present sub-classes of the English lexicon that reveal specific features from the point of view of their word-building patterns, meaning formation, and

phonetic shaping. Internationalisms are words that have the same source language and occur in the same or similar lingual form and identical meaning in at least three genealogically different languages [6], as the following examples from English and Ukrainian, e.g. *company* – *компанія*, *factor* – *фактор*, *park* – *парк*. Not only words, but also morphemes – prefixes (e.g. *bi-*, *re-*, *pre-*, etc.), suffixes and inflections (*-a*, *-um*, *-ism*, etc.), and also the so-called combining forms (e.g. *auto-*, *bio-*, *blast-*, *mega-*, *-logy*, *-phile*, etc.) – can function as internationalisms. This grouping of words has attracted much attention on the part of researchers mainly from the perspectives of their lexical meaning development in the borrowing languages, translation studies, but issues of their pronunciation adaptation in UkrE, and their use in TEFL practices appear to be under-researched.

Compounds are composed of more than one root morpheme but function grammatically and/or semantically as a single word [5, p. 228]. They can be written as one word, e.g. *dishwasher*, or with a hyphen, e.g. *user-friendly*, or with a space between the two elements, e.g. *season ticket*. From the point of view of their composition, compounds can be formed by two nouns (N+N), e.g. *'headline*, by an adjective and a noun (Adj+N), e.g. *English teacher*, by a noun in the genitive case and a noun in the common case (N's+N), e.g. *bull's eye*, by a noun and a verb (N+V), e.g. *landfill*, by a noun and a present participle (N+Ving), e.g. *running shoes*. In addition, phrasal and prepositional verbs used as nouns can be compounds, e.g. *burn-out*, *backup*, *setback*, etc. In case when they are written as two separate words, compounds can easily be mixed up with phrases of the type *running 'water*, *hard 'work*, etc.

Though there are some guidelines for defining stress placement in compounds and phrases [10, p. 144-154; 5, p. 228-231; 12, p. 163], it is a highly complicated matter for UkrE users. The most general rule prescribes the placement of **early stress** in compounds (the first element is more stressed than the second) when 1) the two elements are written as one word, e.g. *'lifestyle*; 2) a compound is of the N+N structure, e.g. *'tea 'bag*; 3) a compound is of the Adj+N, N's+N, N+V, N+Ving structures, e.g. *'mineral 'water*, *'bull's 'eye*, *'meltdown*, *'answering ma'chine*. When an adjective modifies the following noun, they make a phrase, and typically, they have a **late stress** (the second word has more stress than the first), e.g. *interesting 'book*, *'difficult 'course*, etc. Sometimes, the same sequence of words can make a compound, or a phrase; in such cases the **early** or **late stress** distinguishes them, e.g. *a 'moving van* (to carry furniture when one moves house) = a COMPOUND, vs. *a 'moving 'van* (a van that is in motion) = a PHRASE. As all the rules will have exceptions, a wise learner strategy, however, would be to treat stress placement in compounds as a property of an individual word, and consult a pronouncing dictionary when the word itself is learned.

In case of internationalisms, and compounds, a clear distinction should be drawn between a *pronunciation error* that affects intelligibility, and a *pronunciation deviation* that serves an instant audial marker of a speaker's non-native identification. Most of the adaptations that UkrE speakers tend to resort to while pronouncing words that are in the focus of our research can be defined as *deviations*, whereas the misplacement of lexical stress in compounds can result in changing them into phrases, thus impeding understanding.

#### METHODOLOGY

A qualitative research methodology was employed to conduct this study with the aim of describing and analyzing the data. The corpus of our observation material is made up by pronunciation forms of internationalisms, and compounds selected from the English speech of pre-service teachers enrolled in a TEFL course at the School of Foreign Languages of Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian State Pedagogical University, and also pronunciation variants of those words, recorded in specialist pronunciation dictionaries of English – *The Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary* [11] and *The Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* [12]. The data were collected through observation, and questionnaire. The observation was conducted to record pronunciations of internationalisms and compounds, used by EFL students in oral classroom communication. To complement the obtained observation material, the students were given the questionnaire in which they were asked to mark lexical stress and write transcriptions of selected words under study.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The most numerous thematic group of **internationalisms** in our corpus of observation material comprises two sub-classes:

1) terminological lexis, namely, computer terms, e.g. *e-mail, podcast, hypertext*; linguistic terms, e.g. *phoneme, lexeme, morpheme*; lexis from the domain of economy and technique, e.g. *marketing, know-how, bonus, atmosphere, microphone, smartphone, soundtrack*; lexis from the sphere of high and popular culture, e.g. *bestseller, blockbuster, hip-hop, talk show*; lexis belonging to the domain of politics, e.g. *epoch, ideology, congress*; sporting lexis, e.g. *penalty, shaping, surfing*; etc. and

2) lexis denoting people, and objects of everyday life, e.g. *emigrant, migrant, protestant, tyrant, menu, omelet/omelette, massage, garage, deodorant, pullover*.

According to their part of speech specification, a great number of internationalisms belong to nouns, as in the examples above. A separate grouping is made up by the verbs, and nouns the morphological structures of which incorporate the suffixes, and the so-called combining forms, adapted in corresponding Ukrainian words, cf. *analyse – аналізувати, decorate – декорувати, alcoholism – алкоголізм*, etc. A list of such typical forms used both in English, and in Ukrainian in either exact or adapted representations can comprise: **-ise/ize**, e.g. *criticize* /<sup>1</sup>krɪt.ɪ.saɪz/; **-ate**, e.g. *concentrate* /<sup>1</sup>kɒn.səˈn.treɪt/; **-fy**, e.g. **classify** /<sup>1</sup>klæs.ɪ.faɪ/; **-ism** (denoting an action, result, or quality), e.g. *feminism* /<sup>1</sup>fem.ɪ.nɪ.zəm/; and combining forms: **astro-** (of stars or space), e.g. *astronomy*; **auto-** (self; spontaneous), e.g. *autonomous*; **biblio-** (of or relating to books), e.g. *bibliophile* /<sup>1</sup>bɪb.li.əʊ.fɑɪl/; **caco-** (bad or worst), *cacophony* /kəˈkɒf.ə.ni/; **contra-** (against or opposite; below or beyond), *contraband* /<sup>1</sup>kɒn.trəˈbænd/; **-graph** (denoting a science or technique, a style, or a kind of writing), e.g. *autograph* /<sup>1</sup>ɔː.təˈɡrɑːf, -græf/, *calligraphy* /kəˈlɪɡ.rə.fi/; **haemato-** (of or relating to blood), e.g. *haematoma* /hiː.məˈtəʊ.mə/; **hemi-** (half), e.g. hemisphere /<sup>1</sup>hem.ɪ.sfɪə/; **macro-** (long; large), e.g. *macroeconomics* /<sup>1</sup>mæk.rəʊ.ɪ:kəˈnɒm.ɪks/; **-man**, e.g. *businessman* /<sup>1</sup>bɪz.nɪs.mæn, -nəs-, -mən/; **-meter /metre** (measuring; having a particular measure), e.g. *kilometre* /kɪˈlɒm.ɪ.tə, -ə-, ˈkɪl.əʊ.miː-/; **centimeter** /<sup>1</sup>sen.tɪ.miː.tə/; **micro-** (small; reduced; one millionth), e.g. *microprocessor* /<sup>1</sup>maɪ.krəʊˈprɒs.es.ə/; **-ogue, e.g. pedagogue** /<sup>1</sup>ped.əˈɡɒɡ/; **para-** (protecting or warding off), e.g. *parachute* /<sup>1</sup>pær.əˈʃuːt/, etc. (see more in: [7]).

A contrastive analysis between the English standard pronunciations of internationalisms and their realizations in the speech of UkrE users conducted in this study has indicated that **recurrent phonetic markers** of adaptation on the level of the word phonemic structure comprise changes in the pronunciation of certain stressed and unstressed vowels; and on the level of the word accentual patterns, there are changes of the number and degree of lexical stress. Occasional deviations in UkrE speakers' pronunciation of internationalisms consist of resyllabification.

According to our estimation, accentual deviations outnumber phonemic ones significantly. In such cases, the prediction of the deviant stress assignment in UkrE users' pronunciation of internationalisms is significantly and/or uniquely contributed by stress patterns of phonologically similar Ukrainian words, as in the following examples: *atmosphere* /<sup>1</sup>æt.məs.fɪə/ cf. *атмосфера*, *anatomy* /<sup>1</sup>ænət.ə.mi/ cf. *анатомія*, *catalogue* /<sup>1</sup>kæt.əl.ɒɡ/ cf. *каталог*, *deficit* /<sup>1</sup>def.ɪ.stɪ, dəˈfɪs-/ cf. *дефіцит*, *gentleman* /<sup>1</sup>dʒen.təl.mən/ cf. *джентльмен*, *industry* /<sup>1</sup>ɪn.də.stri/ cf. *індустрія*, *kilometre / kilometer* /kɪˈlɒm.ɪ.tə, -ə-; ˈkɪl.əʊ.miː-/ cf. *кілометр*, *lexeme* /<sup>1</sup>lek.siːm/ cf. *лексема*, *omelet/ omelette* /<sup>1</sup>ɒm.lət, -lɪt, -let/ cf. *омлет*, *phoneme* /<sup>1</sup>fəʊ.niːm/ cf. *фонема*, *imitate* /<sup>1</sup>ɪm.ɪ.teɪt/ cf. *імітувати*, *improvise* /<sup>1</sup>ɪm.prə.vaɪz/ cf. *імпровізувати*, *personify* /pəˈsɒn.ɪ.fɑɪ, pɜː-/ cf. *персоніфікувати*, etc. The above mentioned rule of analogy, though dominating, is not winning in some cases. For instance, recurring UkrE users' pronunciations of *hotel*, *machine*, and *police* with the stress on the word initial syllable go against the default accentual patterns of their corresponding Ukrainian forms that fully coincide with the standard English pronunciations: *hotel* /həʊˈtel/ cf. *готель*, *machine* /məˈʃiːn/ cf. *машина*, *police* /pəˈliːs/ cf. *поліція*. The reason why some UkrE speakers resort to this transfer deviant from the standard remains obscure or it can be explained by the misapplication of a most general rule that English words are typically stressed on the first syllable, unless there are factors, such as suffixes, prefixes, source of word origin, word syllabic structure, etc. can determine stress location on a different syllable. Presumably, some of UkrE speakers' stressing of the initial syllable of the word *component* instead of the standard English

*component* /kəm'pəʊ.nənt/, and contrary to Ukrainian *компонент*, might be accounted for in a similar way.

An issue of a special interest is UkrE users' pronunciations of internationalisms with the suffix *-ate*. As for their lexical class, such words can be nouns (N), e.g. *candidate* /'kændɪ.dət -dɪt -dɪt/ adjectives (Adj) e.g. *adequate* /'æd.ɪ.kwət, '-ə-, -kwɪt/; and verbs (V), approximately 1,000 of them end in that suffix in English, e.g. *decorate* /'dek.ə.rɪt, -ə.rɪt/. Moreover, the same forms with the *-ate* suffix can function both as:

1) N/ Adj, e.g. *intimate* /'ɪn.tɪ.mət, -tə-, -mɪt /;

2) V/ N, e.g. *delegate* noun /'del.ɪ.gət, '-ə-, -geɪt, -gɪt/, verb /'del.ɪ.geɪt/;

3) V/ Adj, e.g. *separate* adj /'sep.ə.rɪt, -ɪt/, verb /'sep.ə.rɪt, -ə.rɪt/;

4) N/ Adj / V, e.g. *subordinate* noun, adj /sə'bɔː.dən.ət, -dɪ.nət, -'bɔːd.nət, -nɪt/, verb /sə'bɔː.dɪ.neɪt, -'bɔːr.dən.ɪt/. As shown by the English standard pronunciations of the above-given examples, the suffix *-ate* is pronounced as /-ət /-ɪt/ in nouns and adjectives, and /-eɪt/ in verbs. Some UkrE users tend to adapt those default patterns by stressing the suffix and pronouncing it as /-eɪt/.

Speaking about the deviations in UkrE speakers' word phonemic structures of internationalisms, it should be indicated that they comprise two main cases:

1) giving full formation to the vowels occurring in unstressed positions due to interference of corresponding Ukrainian pronunciations, e.g. *formula* cf. формула, *collector* cf. колектор, *focus* cf. фокус, etc;

2) assigning different sounding to some English letters, denoting vowels both in stressed and unstressed positions, under the influence of Ukrainian graphemes in corresponding words. This case concerns the sounding of the English letters *a, e, i, o, u*, as exemplified below: *bacteria* /bæk'tɪər.i.ə/ cf. бактерія, *catastrophe* /kə'tæst.rə'fi/ cf. катастрофа, *paragraph* /'pær.ə.grɑːf, -græf/ cf. параграф, *extravagant* /ɪk'stræv.ə.ɡʌnt/ cf. екстравагантний, *asphalt* noun /'æs.fælt, -fɔːlt, -fəlt/ cf. асфальт, *watt* /wɒt/ cf. ватт, *diaspora* /daɪ'æs.pərə/ cf. діаспора, *epoch* /'iː.pɒk, 'ep.ək/ cf. епоха, *deodorant* /di'əʊ.də'r.ənt/ cf. дезодорант, *lemonade* /lem.ə'neɪd/ cf. лимонад, *monologue* /'mɒn.ə'lɒɡ/ cf. монолог, *neoclassical* /niː.əʊ'klæs.ɪ.kəl/ cf. неокласичний, *stereotvne* /'ster.i.əʊ.taɪp, 'stɪər.i- / cf. стереотип, *sterile* /'ster.aɪl -əl/ cf. стерильний, *tornado* /tɔː'neɪ.dəʊ/ cf. торнадо, etc.

The pronunciation of English compounds by UkrE speakers displays many deviations from standard English. A recurring adaptation involves using **late stress** in compound internationalisms that have corresponding words in Ukrainian, e.g. *'bestseller* cf. бестселер, *'blockbuster* cf. блокбастер, *'talk show* cf. токшоу, etc. Many of such words belong to computer lexis, e.g. *'login* cf. логін, *'internet* cf. інтернет, *'website* cf. вебсайт, etc.

Another recurrent deviation balancing on the verge of an error is some UkrE users' failure to discriminate between compounds and phrases. This is complicated by numerous exceptions to the rule of **early stress** in compounds, e.g. 1) when the first element names a place or time, **late stress** is usual in compounds, e.g. *'city hall*, *'kitchen sink*, *'Christmas Day/Eve* (but: *'Christmas present*, *'Christmas tree*), etc.; 2) when the first element is the material or ingredient out of which the thing is made, **late stress** is used, e.g. *'apple pie*, *'rice pudding*, *'banana split*, except for CAKE, JUICE and WATER: these have normally **early stress**: *'carrot cake*, *'orange juice*, *'mineral water*; 3) when the first element is a proper name, then the second element is stressed (**late stress**), e.g. *'Euston Road*, *'the Hilton Hotel*, *'Oxford Circus*, *'Buckingham Palace* (but *'White House!*), except for STREET: these have **early stress**: *'Oxford Street*, *'Euston Street*.

It should be also noted that there are inter-variant differences between the stressing of compounds in Received pronunciation (RP) and General American (GenAm), e.g. *'season ticket* (RP) vs. *'season ticket* (GenAm), *'peanut butter* (RP) vs. *'peanut butter* (GenAm), *'vocal cords* (RP) vs. *'vocal cords* (GenAm).

## CONCLUSIONS

This study aimed at describing cases of deviant/erroneous pronunciation of word phonemic and accentual structures of internationalisms, and compounds by Ukrainian pre-service EFL

teachers. The findings revealed that UkrE users often employ the analogy rule for main stress assignment in English pronunciations of internationalisms, i.e. they rely on stress patterns of phonologically similar words in Ukrainian. In case, when English and Ukrainian employ different accentual patterns for similar words, this user strategy results in pronunciation deviations. The analogy rule is also in operation in UkrE learners' adaptation of the phonemic structures of internationalisms. They tend to assign sounds to the English letters **a, e, i, o, u** under the influence of Ukrainian graphemes in similar internationalisms. UkrE speakers' pronunciations of compounds is a source of both potential pronunciation deviations, and errors. The main rules of **early stress** in English compounds, and **late stress** in phrases are replete with exceptions. And there are cases when the same sequence of words can be distinguished as a compound, or a phrase with the rule of early / late stress.

UkrE learners should be aware of these points of difficulty in pronouncing English internationalisms and compounds, due to the fact that some of the adaptations they resort to are just xenolectal markers of speech, whereas others balance on the verge of pronunciation errors that can impede understanding in oral communication. The recommended wise learner strategy is to consult a pronouncing dictionary when the pronunciation of an internationalism or a compound is learned.

**Further** issues that should be addressed in the future from similar perspectives are, among others, issues of utterance stress / accentuation in Ukrainian English unemphatic and emphatic speech, de-accenting, adjustments related to sound linking, coalescence, and deletion / insertion in connected speech, and how those issues should be integrated in EFL teacher preparation practices.

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## РОЗВИТОК НОВИХ АКЦЕНТНИХ ВАРІАНТІВ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ СЛІВ У ПЕРІОД 1958-1984 РР. (НА МАТЕРІАЛІ 11-ГО ТА 14-ГО ВИДАНЬ EVERYMAN'S ENGLISH PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY)

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**ДАЦЬКА Тетяна. РОЗВИТОК НОВИХ АКЦЕНТНИХ ВАРІАНТІВ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ СЛІВ У ПЕРІОД 1958-1984 РР. (НА МАТЕРІАЛІ 11-ГО ТА 14-ГО ВИДАНЬ EVERYMAN'S ENGLISH PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY)**

*Статтю присвячено встановленню особливостей варіювання кодифікованих акцентних структур слів у нормативній британській вимові за період 1958-1984. Розглядається група слів, у яких протягом цього часу з'явилися нові варіанти акцентного оформлення. Встановлено акцентні типи та структури, що варіюють. Розглянуто такі супутні варіюванню акцентної структури чинники, як довжина слова у складах та частиномовна належність слів. Виявлено зміни у функціонуванні акцентних типів англійських слів у межах зазначеного діахронічного зрізу.*

*Ключові слова:* акцентний тип, акцентна структура, кодифікація, варіант, варіювання, діахронія.

**DATSKA Tetiana. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ACCENTUAL VARIANTS OF ENGLISH WORDS DURING 1958-1984 (BASED ON THE CORPUS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup> EDITIONS OF EVERYMAN'S ENGLISH PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY)**

*The paper is concerned with the study of codified accentual structures variability in RP during 1958-1984. The group of words, which developed new accentual structure variants, are in the focus of investigation. Accentual types and structures that participate in this kind of variation have been singled out. Accentual types are viewed as schemes that indicate the kinds of stress within a word and accentual structures reflect the number of syllables and the placement of primary and secondary stresses on particular syllables in a word. Most of the words have developed two accentual structure variants. Only one out of 198 analyzed words has three alternative accentual structure variants. Five accentual types take part in variation during the above-mentioned period: 'primary stress in a word', 'secondary+primary stress', 'primary+secondary stress', 'primary+secondary+primary stress', 'two primary stresses in a word'. The accentual type 'two primary stresses' in a word falls out of use. The dynamic processes in the word accentual structure involve such types as 'primary stress in a word', 'secondary+primary stress', 'primary+secondary stress'. The main tendency is the change of 'one primary stress in a word' accentual type for 'secondary+primary stress' type. According to the 'part of speech' parameter, most of the words that have developed accentual structure variants are three-syllable and two-syllable nouns and adjectives. Further investigation of the issue under study can include establishing the peculiarities of the groups of words that have lost / retained the same number of their accentual structure variants during the period of 1958-1984.*

*Key words:* accentual type, accentual structure, codification, variant, variability, diachrony.

Відомо, що варіювання мовних одиниць є постійною ознакою живої мови, яка забезпечує її ефективне функціонування та розвиток в синхронії, може спричинятися власне мовними та позамовними чинниками, і врешті є підґрунтям мовної динаміки в діахронії, яка якраз і відбувається через конкуренцію і перерозподіл варіантів на синхронічному зрізі. У фонетиці діахронічні зміни у вимові слів можливо відслідковувати на прикладі лексикографічних джерел – словників вимови. Зміни в акцентному оформленні слова, які фіксуються у вигляді варіантів акцентної структури слова (АС), описують динаміку акцентної структури в діахронії.

Словесний наголос є важливим організуючим елементом в оформленні звучання слова, тому варіативність АС у кодифікованій вимовній нормі, як свідчать проведені дослідження, не є високою порівняно з варіативністю фонемної структури слова [2], проте частина акцентних структур слів в англійській мові допускають певну варіативність реалізацій АС.

Дослідження варіювання та/або динаміки АС уже були проведені на матеріалі останніх видань словників вимови, які фіксують британську, американську та інші вимовні норми