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TIMBRE CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERJECTION "YEAH"

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Spontaneous speech shows a variety of timbre coloring and determines the conditional distribution of emotional and non-emotional content in speech. Timbre – sound coloring – gives speech certain emotional and expressive shades. The timbre of speech is very diverse and serves as a means of individual identification of a speaker, and it also reflects a wide range of emotional shades of speech [1]. The timbre is an element of prosody, perceived from the first moment of pronouncing a word, in this case an interjection, and it also conveys the most minimal shades of the emotional content of that interjection [2].

It should be noted that any features of the interjection's usage to express the emotions of a linguistic personality should not be considered as absolute markers of male or female speech. The obtained data confirm the existence of male and female priorities in the use of certain units of the lexical level [3]. We can state the existence of gender preferences in the usage of interjections in spontaneous communication. Studying the differences in the preferences of women and men in the use of interjections, we have drawn our attention to the frequency of the fundamental tone, as well as to the formant structure of the sound of interjections.

During the experiment, the dependence of timbral characteristics on the speaker's gender was analyzed. In particular, for the interjection "Yeah", the dependence of timbral characteristics on gender is presented in this table:

From the table it can be concluded that the tonal characteristics for the interjection "Yeah" depend on the gender characteristics of the speakers. So, for men, amplification of sound occurs in the fifth formant, while for women – in the fourth.

For men, the maximum FO value is less than for women by about 10 points (a graphic image is shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

Table 1

Dependence of timbral and gender characteristics of the interjection "Yeah"

YEAH		
	Men	Women
Quantity	149	61
Average max FO (Fundamental Frequency) value, Hz	229,84	279,11
Average min FO value, Hz	165,42	205,47
FO range,%	38,9	35,8
Absolute max. FO value, Hz	490,0	500,0
Absolute min. FO value, Hz	40,8	58,9
Average value of the formant, ff	5	4

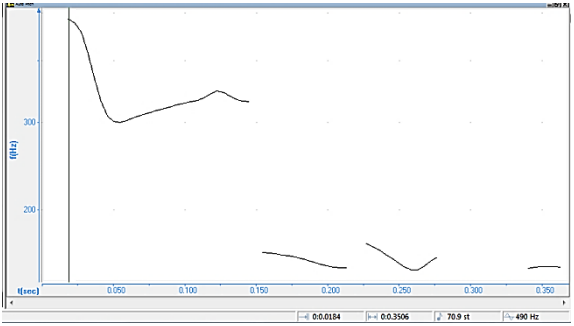

Fig. 2. Graphical representation of the Pitch curve for the interjection "Yeah" with an absolute maximum FO value for men

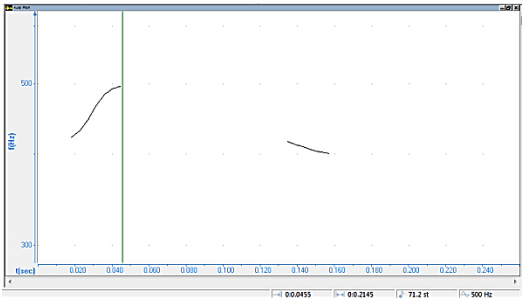

Fig. 3. Graphical representation of the Pitch curve for the interjection "Yeah" with an absolute maximum FO value for women

The minimum FO value for men is approximately 18 points lower (a graphic image is shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5). The interval between the minimum and maximum values of FO for men and women almost coincide.

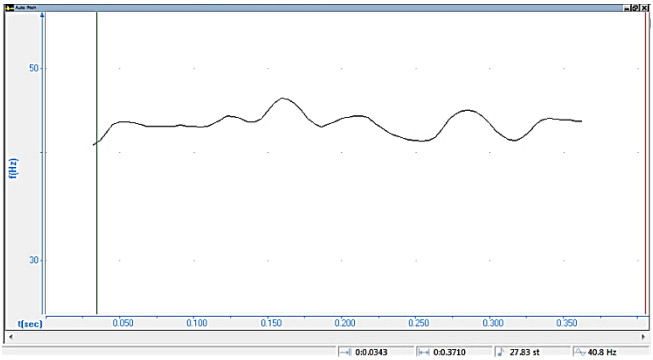

Fig. 4. Graphical representation of the Pitch curve for the interjection "Yeah" with an absolute minimum FO value for men

The analysis of the interjection "Yeah" in men's speech indicates that sound amplification occurs in the fifth formant with a probability of 88.6%, which means that in 88.6% of sound amplification implementations occurs in the fifth formant, and for the remaining interjections (11.4%) sound amplification is already happening in the fourth formant. The frequency value ranges from 40.8 Hz to 490.0 Hz.

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