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LANGUAGE POWER AND PRESTIGE**

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NEW LINGUISTIC TOOL FOR SPEECH INTONATION ANALYSIS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

IntonTrainer software system was designed to train learners in producing a variety of recurring intonation patterns of speech in foreign language. The system is based on comparing the melodic (tonal) portraits of a reference phrase and a phrase spoken by the learner. The main algorithms used in the training system proposed for analysing and comparing intonation features are considered. This work is a follow up study to the previously introduced model of universal melodic portraits (UMP) of accentual units (AU) for the representation of phrase intonation in text-to-speech synthesis [1, 2].

The proposed computer trainer provides additional visual feedback, as well as a quantitative estimation of the correctness of speech intonation in the process of foreign language learning [3 – 5] or for an instrumental evaluation of the intonation quality of synthesized speech [6]. “IntonTrainer” is available for free download (see <https://intontrainer.by>). It is primarily focused on learning the intonation of foreign languages. A set of reference sentences is given which represents the basic intonation patterns and their main varieties of Russian, British English, American English, German and Chinese speech. The system analyses intonation, represents the tone pattern and spoken phrasal intonation on the screen, and estimates an intonation similarity.

We also conducted an experiment on an instrumental evaluation of the prosodic quality of synthesized Russian speech by using of “IntonTrainer” computer system. Our approach to assessing the intonational quality of speech allows to treat a synthesized speech with the same strict requirements as are applied to students studying Russian as a second language. In [6] we describe the technology used for the instrumental evaluation of the intonation quality of synthesized speech and the acoustic database of reference phrases used to assess the intonation quality of synthesized speech.

The main results of the update of the IntonTrainer system for the purpose of analysing and studying the prosodic signs of emotional intonation are described in [7]. A distinctive functional feature of the

updated system is the creation of an expanded set of prosodic signs of emotional intonation. We describe an upgrading of the “IntonTrainer” for the purposes of analyzing and studying the prosodic signs of emotional intonation, which did not include the creation of a valid speech emotion recognition model. The ultimate goal was limited to the creation of a tool that would provide analysis and visualization of an extended set of prosodic signs of emotional intonation, and which could be used as a new tool for phonetic studies of speech.

The purpose of this article is to give a detailed description of the structure and features of the practical use of the developed system which can be used in the following fields:

- In foreign languages learning to visualize and correct intonation or for improving intonation skills of one’s native language in some professions: call center operators, radio and TV announcers, etc.
- Study of individual, emotional and stylistic features of intonation.
- Comparative evaluation of speech intonation in norm and pathology.
- Estimation of the intonational quality of synthesized speech, etc.

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