
Seminar 6

1. Prove that the syllabic and accentual structures of words are closely connected.
2. What definitions of the term 'word stress' do you know? Which one do you consider to be the most appropriate?
3. Name and characterize the components determining the nature of word stress.
4. Discuss the nature of English word stress. What is the traditional approach? What approach does modern phonology suggest? Illustrate your opinion.
5. What differences can you trace between word stress in English and in Russian?
6. Speak about the classification of languages into those with fixed stress and those with free stress.
7. What are the tendencies of the placement of stress in English words?
8. Give a brief overview of a general classification of word stress made on the basis of the degree of prominence.
9. How many degrees of word stress are possible? Discuss the opinions of:
 - a) Russian linguists;
 - b) British linguists;
 - c) American linguists.
10. Explain the peculiarities of polysyllabic words in English which concern the degrees of word stress. Are these retained in connected speech?
11. What differences can you notice in the degrees and the position of word stress in the English and Russian languages?
12. Give an account of the distribution of English vowel and consonant phonemes in stressed syllables.

13. What functions does word stress perform?
14. Give a definition of the term 'accenteme'. Where is it studied? What types of accentemes do you know?
15. What are the functions of accentuation oppositions?
16. What tendencies effect the position of word stress in English?
17. Speak about the recessive tendency. Give examples to illustrate its influence on borrowings in English.
18. What caused the appearance of rhythmical tendency?
19. Prove the interrelation of both tendencies in the accentual structure of English words.
20. What peculiarity marks the accentual structure of English words with retentive tendency?
21. Which stress tendency prevails in modern English?
22. What are the most typical stress patterns of English words? What other stress patterns do you know? Give examples to illustrate them.
23. Is the accentual structure of English stable? Why? / Why not?
24. What are the basic rules of word accentuation? Speak about:
 - a) peculiarities of word stress in simple and derivative words;
 - b) peculiarities of word stress in compound words.
25. What is the connection of word stress and sentence stress? Comment on the similar and different features of these phenomena.
26. Why does the study of the accentual structure of English words cause difficulties for language learners?