



GOCE DELCEV UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

*PECULIARITIES OF WORD
STRESS IN ENGLISH AND
MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE*

NATKA JANKOVA ALAGJOZOVSKA

THE DEFINITION OF ACCENT VS. STRESS



Stress/Accent, accent mark, accent (verb)



Stress: intensity of utterance given to a speech sound, syllable, or word producing relative loudness



Accent: An effort in speech to stress one syllable over adjacent syllables

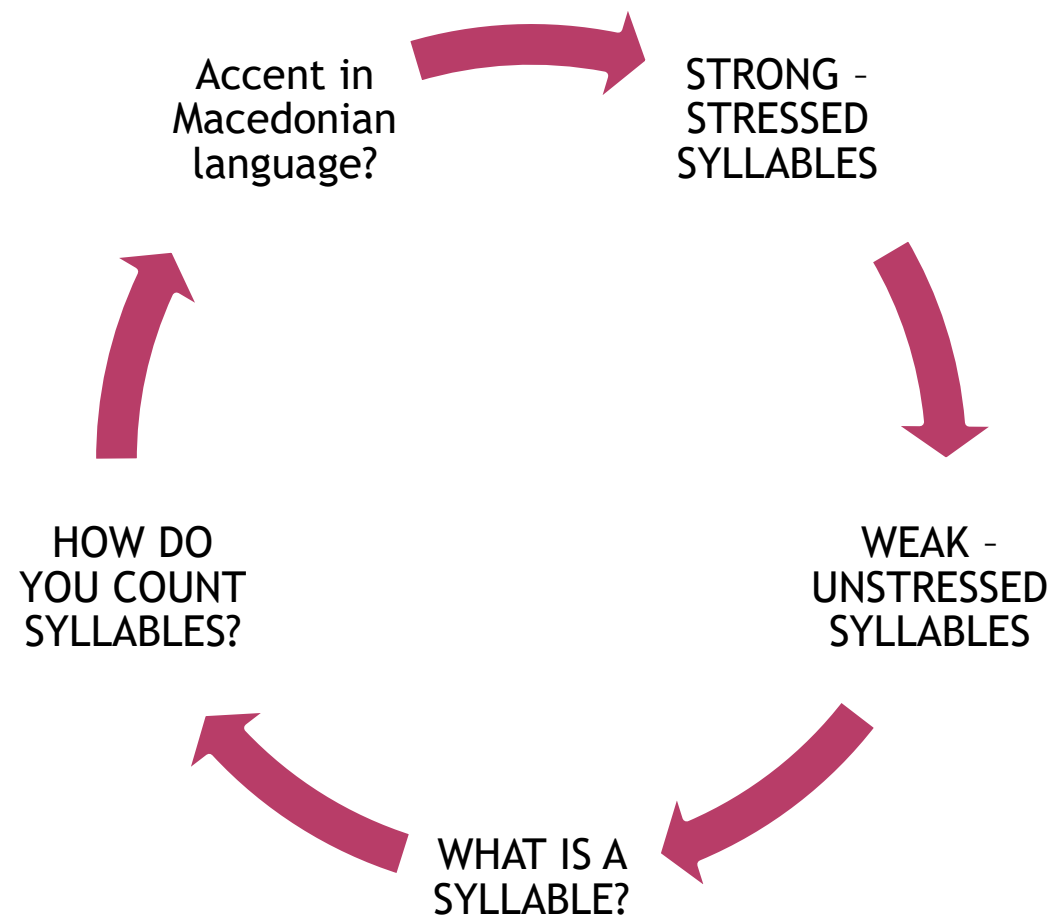


The word "stress" also means something else if you consider it outside the box of Phonetics and Phonology.



The main definition according to Hlebec (1995) is that " Accent is a relative prominence of a syllable in a word or a group of words or an utterance due to stress and/or pitch and stress is the degree of force used for the pronunciation of a syllable."

TYPES OF STRESS



ACCENT/STRESS IN MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

Macedonian language has much simpler and easier stress patterns. The stress is dynamic, and it only happens under particular circumstances.

Two syllable words have the stress on the second syllable (топ-ка, мај-ка, тат-ко), making it more prominent.

In cases where of three or more syllables, the stress falls on the third syllable counting backwards. (тат-ко-ви-на, Ма-ке-до-нец).

However, just like many other languages, Macedonian language has some exceptions: in cases with three or more syllables the exceptions are:

In verb-adverbs (глаголски прилози)

Adverbs for time

Words from other origins

STRESS IN MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

The stress in most native Macedonian words falls on the third syllable from the end:

`кола` (kó-la) - stress on the only syllable

`жена` (zhé-na) - stress on the first (of two)

`мажот` (ma-zhót) - stress on the second (of three)

`зборуваме` (zbo-ru-va-me) - stress on the second (of four)

Important Exceptions:

1. Monosyllabic words

Stress is on the single syllable (`jác`, `ти`, `тој`).

2. Verbal forms with `ке`: The particle `ке` is always stressed (`ке дојде`, `ке го видам`).

3. Foreign Loanwords

Often keep their original stress (`компјутер`, `универзитет`).

4. Emphatic Stress

You can move the stress for emphasis, but this changes the meaning or tone. `Тој дојде` (He came!) vs. `Тој дојде` (HE came, not someone else).

ENGLISH STRESS

English stress is unpredictable and must be learned for each word. It can change the meaning of a word or its grammatical function.

No Fixed Rule:

There is no rule like "stress the third syllable from the end."
The stress can fall on any syllable.

- `TA-ble`
- `ho-TEL`
- `a-BOVE`
- `un-der-STAND`

WORD ACCENT SHIFT

Accent sometimes shifts within individual words.

The reasons for that word accent shift may be:

- When a word is used attributively
- In some recent tendencies
- When the part of speech is changed
- When a word occurs as a part of certain derivatives

THE ACCENT OF COMPOUNDS

A compound is a word which consists of two elements, each occurring as a separate word as well, between which no other word can be inserted, so it behaves as an inseparable whole.

If the first element of a compound takes primary accent, the second will take tertiary accent, provided that it consists of more than one syllable. Otherwise, the second element remains unaccented.

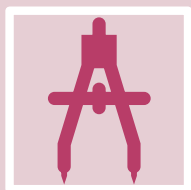
If the second element of a compound has primary accent, the first element will bear secondary accent, regardless of the number of syllables which make it up.

Since secondary and tertiary accent occur in complementary distribution (the former preceding, and the latter following the primary accent) one symbol may be used for both.

SENTENCE ACCENT



The tendency is to speed up the pronunciation of unstressed syllables which make up the more numerous group, in order to maintain a more or less equal interval between the stressed syllables. This can be represented more conspicuously in the form of **rhythmic groups** (or **feet**).



Another possibility to represent stress wholes visually is to gather unstressed syllables around stressed ones which make a meaningful connection within so-called **stress-groups**.

Making word stress visible

vegetable



vegetable



vegetable



vegetable



VEGetable

vegetable

Ooo

/'vedʒ.tə.bəl/

vegetable

vegetable

VEGetable

vegetable

vegetable



I WANT TO BE A
SCHWA
IT'S NEVER STRESSED

gillianembers

MACEDONIAN VS. ENGLISH



Macedonian has a simple, pure 5-vowel system: а, е, и, о, у. Each letter has one consistent sound: `мак` (mak), `мед` (med), `мир` (mir), `мот` (mot), `мука` (muka).



English has a very complex vowel system with around 20 sounds, including diphthongs (two-part vowels).



Short vs. Long: `ship` /ʃɪ/ vs. `sheep` /ʃi:/. Macedonian has only one sound, `и`, so this distinction is very difficult.



The Schwa /ə/

The most common sound in English (`a`bout, tak`e`n, penc`i`l). This sound does not exist in Macedonian. A Macedonian speaker will replace it with a full vowel, usually `a` or `e`.



Diphthongs

Sounds like in `boy`, `cow`, `go`. Macedonian vowels are pure, so these are often pronounced as two separate vowels or a single, simpler one.

IMPACT ON LEARNERS:



Macedonian speaker - learning English will often apply the Macedonian stress rule to English words, leading to incorrect pronunciation (e.g., saying `HO-tel` instead of `ho-TEL`).



English speaker learning Macedonian will struggle to remember the fixed stress rule and its exceptions, often putting stress on the wrong syllable.



Thank
You!

FALIMINDERIT

Natka.Alagozovska@ugd.edu.mk

Associate professor at the
Department of English language and literature
www.ugd.edu.mk