

## WORD STRESS PATTERNS: THE CONTRAST BETWEEN FIXED STRESS IN UZBEK AND FREE, MOBILE STRESS IN ENGLISH

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**Annotation:** The purpose of this article is to present a comparison of stress patterns between Uzbek and English. Uzbek stress is typically fixed on the final syllable, while English stress is free and mobile. The study uses comparative and phonetic analysis methods to highlight differences and discuss common learning challenges and possible solutions.

**Keywords:** Stress, phonetics, syllable, Uzbek language, English language, comparative analysis, stress system.

**Аннотация:** В статье проводится сравнительный анализ системы ударения в узбекском и английском языках. В узбекском языке ударение преимущественно фиксировано на последнем слоге, тогда как в английском языке оно является свободным и подвижным. В работе используются сравнительный и фонетический методы анализа. Также рассматриваются трудности изучения и предлагаются пути их решения.

**Ключевые слова:** Ударение, фонетика, слог, узбекский язык, английский язык, сравнительный анализ, система ударения.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada o'zbek va ingliz tillaridagi urg'u tizimlari qiyosiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. O'zbek tilida urg'u asosan so'zning oxirgi bo'g'iniga tushishi bilan ajralib tursa, ingliz tilida urg'u erkin va ko'chma xususiyatga ega. Tadqiqot davomida fonetik tahlil, qiyosiy metod va misollar asosida ushbu tizimlarning farqlari ochib beriladi. Shuningdek, til o'rganishda yuzaga keladigan muammolar va ularni bartaraf etish yo'llari ko'rib chiqiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Urg'u, fonetika, bo'g'in, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili, qiyosiy tahlil, urg'u tizimi.

### Introduction:

According to Ladefoged & Johnson (2014), word stress is a fundamental phonetic characteristic that influences pronunciation, meaning, and intelligibility in spoken language. The stress systems in different languages may present challenges for learners. The stress patterns of Uzbek and English are different due to their belonging to different language families. Uzbek has a stress system that is mostly fixed, which often lands on the final syllable of a word. In contrast, English has a stress system that is both free and mobile, with stress placement being influenced by grammatical category, word formation, and historical development (Celce-Murcia, Brinton, & Goodwin, 2010).

It's crucial for learners to understand these distinctions. Misunderstandings or communication breakdowns can occur due to incorrect stress placement, affecting both speaking and listening comprehension.

### 2. Methods

The use of qualitative linguistic analysis is employed in this study using the following methods:

#### 2.1 Comparative Method

Comparing the stress systems of Uzbek and English allowed for the identification of similarities and differences (Yuldashev, 2018).

#### 2.2 Phonetic Analysis

Words from both languages were analyzed based on syllable structure and stress placement (Roach, 2009).

#### 2.3 Descriptive Method

The characteristics of each language's stress system were described using examples from textbooks, dictionaries, and spoken corpora.

#### 2.4 Data Collection

Examples were selected from frequently used vocabulary and phrases in both languages, with attention to common learner errors.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Stress in Uzbek

Uzbek exhibits a relatively stable stress pattern. In most cases, stress falls on the final syllable:

*Kitob (kitob -book)*

*maktab (maktab – school)*

*o'qituvchi (o'qituvchi – teacher)*

Exceptions are rare and usually occur in borrowed words or when suffixes are added (Hamidov, 2012).

#### 3.2 Stress in English

English stress is variable and may shift depending on word class or morphology:

Present (noun) vs present (verb)

Import (noun) vs import (verb)

Photograph vs photography vs photographic

Stress in English also distinguishes meaning and grammatical function, making it phonemically important (Celce-Murcia et al., 2010).

### 4. Discussion.

The fixed stress pattern from their native language is often transferred to English by Uzbek learners who are learning English, resulting in frequent pronunciation errors (Kenworthy, 2013).

Common challenges include:

Mispronouncing English words due to incorrect stress

Misunderstanding spoken English

Reduced fluency in speaking

To overcome these issues, learners should:

Listen to native speakers and imitate stress patterns

Practice phonetic transcription of words

Focus on word syllable division and stress rules

Engage in repeated speaking exercises

Teachers should emphasize stress awareness and incorporate stress exercises into pronunciation training.

### **Conclusion**

Uzbek and English have different stress systems that differ significantly. Uzbekistan's stress system is fixed and predictable, while English stress is complex and dynamic. The challenges that these differences pose for language learners can be overcome with systematic practice.

Stress patterns are understood in a clear way, which improves pronunciation, listening comprehension, and overall communication skills.

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