

# The Current State of the Speech Culture Level of Residents of Komsomolsky District of the Khabarovsk Territory

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**Abstract.** The article "The current state of the speech culture level of the residents of Komsomolsky District of the Khabarovsk Territory" describes the results of a study conducted in the city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur in 2019 based on Komsomolsk-on-Amur State University. The experiment was conducted on the students of 1st and 2nd courses. The purpose of the experiment was to reveal the peculiarities of the use of verbal accent by native Russian speakers on the material of lexemes taken from orthoepic sources using the continuous sampling method. The informants were asked to fill in a questionnaire in which the selected lexemes had a variation marked by two or more orthoepic sources. The sources were distant from each other in time, from the 80s of the 20th century to 2014. The conclusions based on the results of the study were drawn representing theoretical and practical significance for Russian word stress.

## 1. Introduction

This study focuses on the Russian word stress. In general, the verbal accent has always caused and causes difficulties for speaker.

Not everyone can boast of a good, competent speech, since it is almost impossible to follow all the existing rules in a language.

Moreover, the boundaries of the norms of the literary language are rather vague. These peculiarities of the Russian verbal accent make our research relevant.

This problem is also aggravated by the fact that in modern time a large flow of information falls on a person and often along with it a large flow of errors.

News sources, and indeed various mass media, are quite often mistake by the misuse of words, in general, and by the incorrect accenting the words, in particular.

Under their influence, people adopt the misuse of stress and word-of-mouth marketing is launched, which has a devastating effect on persons' speech culture.

## 2. Scientific significance of the Russian stress

Russian stress is free, it is often not always on the same syllable and thus causes difficulties in using it among native Russian speakers.

The problems of the Russian accent were discussed in the works of Avanesov, R.I., Valgina, N.S., Nikolaeva, T. M., Lefeldt, V. and etc.

Difficulties associated with the formulation of the word stress are different. First, as previously mentioned, the very nature of the Russian verbal accent, its free character, non-fixedness, make the Russian speakers mistake and put the stress incorrectly.

Secondly, even an educated and competent person has to face accentological difficulties. In order to avoid the latter, you can look in the spelling dictionary, however, this cannot always help.

### **3. The characteristics of the Russian word stress**

Russian word stress has its own characteristics. For this reason our first task is to define the concept of stress in Russian language. There are 4 types of stress in Russian language:

- 1) verbal (accenting a syllable in the phonetic word);
- 2) syntagmatic (accenting a word as part of a syntagma);
- 3) phrasal stress (accenting the syntagma in the phrase);
- 4) logical stress (accenting the syntagma of a word to emphasize its special meaning).

This study is about word stress so our second task is to give it a definition.

Word stress is the selection of one of the syllables of a complex word.

In different languages, the process of isolating a syllable occurs in different ways. For example, in Russian the stressed syllable is pronounced longer than unstressed, with greater force.

In Russian, any syllable of a word can be stressed along with various morphemes in the form of a prefix, root, suffix and ending. Such a character of the Russian word stress speaks of its freedom and mobility.

Word stress performs various functions:

- 1) organizing (syllables and parts of syntagmas are combined into a phonetic word);
- 2) delimitational (separation of phonetic words of one from another);
- 3) semantic differentiation (discernment of the meaning of words);
- 4) morphological (delimitation of the grammatical form of one word or different).

In addition, there are different variants of words where stress may fall:

- 1) common and professional words;
- 2) literary and dialect;
- 3) literary and colloquial;
- 4) neutral and conversational.

### **4. The variability of the Russian word stress**

This article explores the current state of the speech culture level of residents of the Komsomolsk district of the Khabarovsk Territory. The purpose of the study was to identify the features of the use of verbal accent native speakers of the Russian language.

The informants were the students of 1st and 2nd courses from 18 to 21 years old. The experiment was conducted in Komsomolsk-on-Amur State University.

The lexemes taken from orthoepic sources by the method of continuous sampling served as the material for the study.

The authors of orthoepic sources adhere to different points of view regarding the normativeness of the Russian verbal accent. This can be seen in the table below.

Lexemes marked “wrong” imply that this option of using accent is incorrect. Words marked “old” indicate that this stress is outdated.

The mark “nor rec.” implies that words with a given stress are not recommended for use, but words marked “strict standardization” have strict normativity.

In addition, there are equal options for the use of stress and they are marked “and”.

There are also lexemes with stress associated with professional activity and such lexemes are marked “in the professional sphere”.

Lexemes marked “acceptably” suggest that this type of stress is only valid, that is, it can be used but not recommended. However, using this option will not be considered as wrong because it does not have the “wrong” mark.

In addition, there are lexemes marked “extra”. Such lexemes offer the speaker additional options for accents.

As we said earlier, there are also lexemes related to professional activities and they have their own specific stress. So, for example, such a phenomenon can also be observed in artistic speech.

And finally, there were variants of words, the stress of which unfortunately was absent in orthoepic sources.

**Table 1.**

|    | Orthoepic modern dictionary of Russian language / Under. ed. M.N. Sviridova. - M., 2014. | A new orthoepic dictionary of the Russian language for anyone who wants to be literate / T. A. Gridina, N. I. Konovalova, V. V. Burtseva. - M., 2013. | New orthoepic dictionary of the Russian language. Pronunciation. Stress Grammatical forms / T. F. Ivanova. - M., 2005. | Orthoepic dictionary of the Russian language: Pronunciation. Stress / I. L. Reznichenko. - M., 2003. | Orthoepic Dictionary of Russian language: Pronunciation, stress grammatical Forms / Edited R.I. Avanesov. - M., 1988. |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1  | apOkrif (wrong. apokriIf)  | -   | apOkrif  | apOkrif (old apokriIf)   | apOkrif   |
| 2  | apostrOf (wrong apOstrof)  | apostrOf (not rec. apOstrof)  | apostrOf (strict standardization)  | apostrOf (old apOstrof)  | apostrOf (not rec. apOstrof)  |
| 3  | besOvshchina   | -   | besovshchIna   | besOvshchina and besovshchIna  | -   |
| 4  | veterinAriya   | -   | veterinAriya (strict standardization)  | veterinAriya ( in profess. sphere veterinarIya )   | veterinAriya (not rec. veterinarIya )   |
| 5  | vpolsytA   | -   | vpolsytA ( acceptably vpolsYta )   | vpolsytA and vpolsYta  | vpolsytA and extra vpolsYta   |
| 6  | vspolOh  | vspOlOh and vspolOh   | -  | vspOlOh and vspolOh  | vspOlOh and vspolOh   |
| 7  | dvuhkilogram-mOvyj   | -   | dvuhkilogrAm-movyj and dvuhkilogram-mOvyj  | dvuhkilogrAm-movyj and dvuhkilogram-mOvyj  | dvuhkilogrAm-movyj and acceptably dvuhkilogrammOvyj   |
| 8  | dEvichij   | dEvichij ( old devIchij)  | dEvichij ( old; in artistic speech devIchij)   | dEvichij and devIchij  | dEvichij ( old devIchij)  |
| 9  | zAdorogo   | -   | zAdorogo and zadOrogo  | zAdorogo and zadOrogo  | zAdorogo ( extra zadOrogo)  |
| 10 | katalOg (wrong katAlog)  | katalOg (wrong katAlog)   | katalOg (strict standardization)   | katalOg (old katAlog)  | katalOg (not rec. katAlog)  |

## 5. The results of the experiment

In the selected lexemes, variability was observed, marked by two or more orthoepic sources remote from each other in time. Orthoepic sources were from the 80s of the 20th century to 2014.

The informants were from the cities of Amursk, Khabarovsk and the villages of Tayozhnyj, Solnechnyj, Vanino and Elban.

The study showed that students from townships made more mistakes in accenting as compared to students from cities.

This phenomenon can be explained as follows:

First, among the population living in the villages, there are more people who do not have higher education. As it turned out, students whose parents do not have higher education, stressed the wrong syllables.

However, those informants whose parents had a higher education gave more correct answers.

Secondly, the number of informants from the settlements was significantly higher than from the cities, so the number of incorrect answers also prevailed.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion we can say the following:

1. Russian word stress has a complex nature, since it has freedom and mobility.
2. The boundaries of the norms of the Russian word stress are vague.
3. The presence or absence of higher education of parents, as well as the city or town of the informant are the factors that influence on accenting the words.
4. It is impossible to find the norm of the Russian stress in orthoepic sources because different authors adhere to different points of view.

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