



О вербальной, пара- и экстравербальной коммуникации (восприятие американского и британского вариантов английского языка носителями русского языка). Часть 1

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Аннотация. Согласно результатам серии экспериментов по субъективному декодированию на основе перцептивно-слухового и перцептивно-зрительного видов анализа на материале разноязычной коммуникации, базовые знания накапливаются и реализуются в зрительных и слуховых образах, которые дополняют друг друга. Речевая паравербалика является дополнительным источником информации, которая в процессе восприятия иноязычной речи становится базовым знанием о коммуникантах и о коммуникативной ситуации. Полученные результаты подтверждают наличие оценочной констатации перцептивных признаков, соотносящихся с укоренившимися межкультурными особенностями.

Ключевые слова: слуховое восприятие, зрительное восприятие, субъективная оценка, перцептивный образ, межличностная коммуникация, межкультурная коммуникация, речевое поведение, американская, английская и русская лингвокультуры

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Original article

On Verbal, Para- and Extraverbal Communication (perception of American English and British English by Russian subjects). Part 1

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Abstract. According to the results of a series of experiments on subjective decoding based on perceptual-auditory and perceptual-visual types of analysis of multilingual communication, basic knowledge is accumulated and implemented in visual and auditory images that complement each other. Paraverbalics is an additional source of information, which, in the process of the foreign language speech perception, becomes basic knowledge about the communicants and the communicative situation. The results obtained confirm the presence of an evaluative statement of perceptual features correlated with ingrained intercultural characteristics.

Keywords: auditory perception, visual perception, subjective assessment, perceptual image, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, speech behavior, American, British and Russian linguocultures

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INTRODUCTION

Nonverbal components of communication not only contribute to the transfer of the meaning of the message, but also help to determine the degree of emotional experience of the speakers, report the state of their inner world, intentions and expectations, the degree of decisiveness, or, conversely, its absence. Through the use of nonverbal means, information is transmitted about the social status of the interlocutors, their relationship, for example, such parameters as dominance – submission, favor – dislike, sympathy – antipathy, etc. By nonverbal means of communication, one can also determine the attitude of the participants to the communication situation itself: whether they are interested in it, whether they feel comfortable in it, etc.¹ People use various modalities (verbal and nonverbal means) in the process of verbal communication in order to express their thoughts, feelings, emotions more fully, more accurately and more clearly. This is common to all cultures, although different sign systems are given different meanings in various cultures. Therefore, in order to communicate with representatives of other cultures, it is necessary to know and understand both verbal and nonverbal forms of communication inherent in this culture.

As shown by our earlier studies (see the works² of Rodmonga K. Potapova and Vsevolod V. Potapov)

¹See, e. g., Andersen P. Nonverbal communication: forms and functions. 2nd ed. Waveland Press, 2007; Bull P. E. Posture and Gesture. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1987; Burgoon J. K., Guerrero L.K., Floyd K. Nonverbal communication. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2011; Ekman P. Emotions Revealed: Recognizing Faces and Feelings to Improve Communication and Emotional Life. New York: Owl Books, 2003; Guerrero L. K., Floyd K. Nonverbal communication in close relationships. Mahwah (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2006; Haviland W. A., Prins H. E. L., Walrath D., McBride B. Cultural anthropology: The human challenge. Wadsworth Publishing, 2007; Knapp M.L., Hall J. A. Nonverbal communication in human interaction. 5th ed. Wadsworth: Thomas Learning, 2007; Крейдлин Г.Е. Невербальная семиотика: язык тела и естественный язык. М.: Новое литературное обозрение, 2004; Крысько В.Г. Этнопсихология и межнациональные отношения. М.: Изд-во «Экзамен», 2002; Pease A., Pease B. The Definitive Book of Body Language. New York: Bantam Books, 2006; Remland M.S. Nonverbal communication in everyday life. Boston: Allyn, 2009; Ottenheimer H.J. The anthropology of language: an introduction to linguistic anthropology. Kansas State: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007; Segerstrale U., Molnar P. (eds.). Nonverbal communication: where nature meets culture. Mahwah (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1997; Zysk W. Körpersprache – Eine neue Sicht. Doctoral Dissertation. University Duisburg-Essen, 2004, etc.

²See, e. g., Potapova R. K., Potapov V. V. Kommunikative Sprechfähigkeit. Russland und Deutschland im Vergleich. Köln, [etc.]: Böhlau Verlag, 2011; Potapova R., Potapov V. Auditory and visual recognition of emotions behaviour of foreign language subjects (by native and non-native speakers) // Zelezny M., Habernal I., Ronzhin A. (eds.) SPECOM 2013. LNAI. Heidelberg: Springer. Vol. 8113. P. 62–69; Potapova R., Potapov V. Cognitive entropy in the perceptual-auditory evaluation of emotional modal states of foreign language communication partner // Karpov A.,

devoted to the perception of emotional states in the process of mono- and polyethnic communication, a characteristic feature of the perceptual assessment of emotions is cognitive entropy, that is, we can speak not about the absolute, but about the relative degree of congruence of the data obtained, which was confirmed in the course of this study.

In the process of communication, nonverbal means are interconnected with verbal ones and can be in different proportions with them. For example, there are six main types of their interaction³: (1) repetition, when nonverbal communication duplicates verbal or reinforces a verbal message. For example, asking to speak more quietly with your index finger to your lips, or a verbal indication of direction with a hand; (2) contradiction, when nonverbal communication contradicts verbal communication. Nonverbal behavior is spontaneous and unconscious, it is not controlled by consciousness and, therefore, may conflict with the transmitted verbal message. For example, when a person says that he is very glad to see someone, but at the same time he says it coldly and dryly, then his interlocutor subconsciously trusts more these nonverbal signals transmitted through his voice; (3) substitution, when nonverbal behavior replaces verbal behavior (especially if it is blocked by noise, interruption, etc.), for example, if a person puts his finger to the lips to demand silence or bow instead of saying yes. A simple example of this is when a child, instead of saying “I want this toy”, simply points at it; (4) addition, when nonverbal communication somehow modifies, complements the verbal one. At the same time, nonverbal communication components make speech more expressive and clarify it, for example, smiling when meeting a friend, when we say that we are happy to see him, complements our speech message, or a bow that reinforces a positive message; (5) accentuation, in this case nonverbal communication accentuates, emphasizes some parts of the verbal message, for example, a raised index finger indicates that you need to pay special attention to the information that will be said next; (6) regulation, when nonverbal behavior is used in order to regulate the communicative flow

Potapova R., Mporas I. (eds.) SPECOM 2017. LNAI. Cham: Springer. Vol. 10458. P. 253–261; Потاپова Р.К., Потопов В.В., Комалова Л.Р. Восприятие мультимодальной моно- и полиэтнической коммуникации. М.: ИНИОН РАН, 2020; Потопова Р. К., Потопов В. В., Лебелева Н. Н., Агибалова Т. В. Поликодовая среда Интернета и проблемы валологии. М.: ЯСК, 2020; Potapova R., Potapov V., Lebedeva N., Karimova E., Bobrov N. The influence of multimodal polycode Internet content on human brain activity // Karpov A., Potapova R. (eds.) SPECOM 2020. LNAI. Cham: Springer. Vol. 12335. P. 412–423.

³Потопова Р. К. Коннотативная паралингвистика. М.: Триада, 1997; Потопова Р. К. Речь: коммуникация, информация, кибернетика. 4-е изд. М.: Либроком, 2010.

between interacting individuals. By the nod of the head, the tilt of the torso, intonation, the adoption of a certain posture, we can understand that it is our turn to enter the conversation.

Mimic signals perform various functions in social interaction, and have a large informational content. They are largely responsible for expressing and managing the emotional content of the communication situation [Ellgring, 1986; Pease A., Pease B., 2004].

FEATURES OF PERCEPTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AUDITORY AND VISUAL CHANNELS

Perception is the result of polymodal activity, which initially has an expanded character and only then becomes collapsed, in which the image of perception arises on the basis of one modality, and other types of modality only help with a more complete display. As is known, the visual analyzer is characterized by the greatest capacity of perception, persistence and durability of the image, which can provide reliable support for the perception and reproduction of speech [Ксенчук, Киянова, 1993; Дерябо, Ясвин, 2004].

Many researchers have proven that the degree of auditory perception increases significantly if the face of the speaking partner is clearly visible in the communication. To explain the visual perception of speech, it is not enough to know the physiological rules of the eye behavior in the process of perception. The organ of vision does not work in isolation, but it works in a complex dynamic system that includes our practice, our thinking and all previous experience [Потапова, Потапов, 2006].

Visual perception is a set of processes for constructing a visual image of the surrounding world. The appeal to the study (analysis and interpretation) of visual documents is not only explained by the increasing number and importance of images. The availability of technical means of photographing and video filming, the possibility of their daily use by most people create a situation of accumulation of visual material that captures ordinary life [Захарова, 2008].

Perception of a video fragment presupposes the viewer's activity associated with his attempts to understand its meaning. According to R. A. Smith [Smith, 1973], the main task of interpretation is to reveal the content of the image. The author also emphasizes that interpretation is often the most important moment in the interaction of the viewer with a fragment.

Where there are differing opinions as to what is being analyzed, the objectives and procedures for interpretation may differ significantly. All this assumes different ideas about a person and the world around him. Conservative approach, however, argues that

differences between different points of view do not prevent finding the truth, since some points of view are more correct and others are less, and that it is always possible to determine which way of interpretation allows the most deep and comprehensive analysis of a fragment. However, this does not at all solve the problem of finding the truth, since the methods of interpretation are connected with their own idea of what it means to understand the fragment most deeply and comprehensively [Armstrong, 1986].

Auditory perception is the next stage of communication: the listener perceives the sound signal transmitted to him by the speaker and interprets it in a certain way. Thus, in the process of perception information is decoded – it is converted from a physical (acoustic) form to a symbolic (mental) one. The activity of the recipient in the communication process is aimed at understanding the speech message [Кодзасов, Кривнова, 2001].

In order to convey the semantic adequacy of a speech utterance, the identification of connotative (additional) meanings, transmitted not only by exclusively verbal (lexico-grammatical), but also by paraverbal (phonation-kinetic, intonation, timbre) means that carry a certain significative load, takes on a primary role.

According to our concept, the nonverbal component in relation to the paraverbal at the suprasegmental level is formed by the following modifications of the speech signal [Потапова, Потапов, 2008]: change in the frequency of the main tone (at the perception level – pitch); change of the intensity level (at the perception level – loudness); change in the speed of realization of the articulation of sounds, sound combinations, syllables (at the perception level – tempo); breaks in phonation and articulation (at the perception level – pause); spectrum (at the perception level – timbre); rhythm (at the perception level – the selection of individual sections of the speech chain).

The difficulty lies in the fact that connotative meanings, in contrast to denotative ones, are usually expressed implicitly, which may be associated with the presence of formal indicators in vocabulary and grammar (in particular, syntax), as well as with the use of paraverbal means in their combination as applied to acoustic and optical communication channels¹.

Particularly difficult is the problem of interaction “person – person” in the presence of such factors as native – non-native languages of communication, belonging to the other ethnic culture, since with the acquisition of a non-native language, a person transfers the nonverbal components of communication of the other ethnic group into his behavior and communication and reproduces them naturally and without hesitation [Потапова, Потапов, 2008].

¹Потапова Р. К. Коннотативная паралингвистика. М.: Триада, 1997.

Some features of identification are known, according to which the quality of identification almost doubles if a person knows the language and, accordingly, body language (gestures), eye and facial expressions in which identification is realized. This idea suggests that the recipient can identify the speaker with a greater degree of probability if he understands the language in which the speech of the identified speaker is realized.

At present, not only audio, but also video recordings are increasingly used in applied research. When analyzing video and audio recordings, especially if an audio recording is accompanied by noise, the video channel provides additional information. In the presence of intense acoustic noise of an audio recording, visual information may be the only information, with the help of which it is more efficient to obtain data about the communicant [Потапова, Потапов, 2006].

Sound images are perceived with a greater emotional reaction than visual ones, however, the amount of information received per unit of time based on sound images is significantly less. Basic knowledge is accumulated and presented in iconic visual images, and is formed and displayed in speech sound images [Галышина, 2003].

V. P. Morozov was of the opinion that the following features are inherent in nonverbal communication [Морозов, 1998]: polysensory nature, i.e. implementation with the participation of different senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch, etc.); independence from language barriers; independence from the semantics of speech utterance; significant spontaneity of expressive means and subconsciousness; features of acoustic coding tools; features of psychophysiological mechanisms of perception (decoding).

EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION¹, METHODS, RESULTS

Experiment No. 1. Features of auditory and visual perception based on the material of American English and British English by native and non-native speakers of the English linguoculture

The identifiable objects were American and British actors. The identification was carried out by native

speakers of Russian – percipients who know English to varying degrees, and percipients who are native speakers of English. In the process of identification, nonverbal parameters (facial expressions and gestures) and paraverbal (intonation and prosodic means) were analyzed.

A group of subjects. The subjects were selected taking into account such characteristics as (see Table 1):

- gender (men and women);
- the age of the participants in the experiment is from 20 to 27 years old;
- place of birth;
- place of long-term residence: subjects – native speakers of the Russian language (Moscow and the nearest Moscow region), subjects – native speakers of American English (USA);
- education (humanitarian / technical);
- specialization in education and profession of parents;
- native language, as well as knowledge of foreign languages (different levels of proficiency);
- presence / absence of musical education.

Stimulus material

Material: ten fragments (see Table 2) of various films (not more than 30 seconds each) in the original language (British and American English), which were selected according to the following criteria:

- the presence of situations of everyday communication (dialogues, polylogues);
- the presence of participants in communicative acts in these fragments was represented by English and American actors;
- the directors of these films also belonged to representatives of two ethnic groups (Americans and British [Швейцер, 1971; Kirkpatrick, 2010; Цалиева, 2013]);
- the video material reflected the situation of the modern world (late XX – early XXI centuries);
- video material released after 2001;
- in the video fragments the emotional mood of the communicants is “well read” (from neutral emotional mood to aggression);

Table 1.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROUP OF SUBJECTS

Encoding	Linguoculture	Gender	Age (years)	Places of birth and long-term residence
Russian women	Russian	3 women	22–25	Russia (Moscow and Moscow region)
Russian men	Russian	3 men	20–23	
American women	American	2 women	22–25	USA
American men	American	2 men	22–27	

Table 2.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANALYZED MATERIAL

No. of fragments	Movie title	Linguoculture	Participants in the situation (actors)	Communication situation
1	Love Actually (2003)	British	Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson	greeting
2	Love Actually (2003)	British	Emma Thompson and Liam Neeson	encouragement, support
3	America's Sweethearts (2001)	American	Julia Roberts and Billy Crystal	request, persuasion
4	The Fighter (2010)	American	Melissa Leo and Jack McGee	quarrel
5	Crash (2004)	British	Sandra Bullock and Matt Dillon	quarrel
6	The Time Traveler's Wife (2008)	American	Eric Bana and Rachel McAdams	everyday communication
7	The Time Traveler's Wife (2008)	American	Eric Bana and Rachel McAdams	quarrel
8	The Ghost Writer (2009)	British	Pierce Brosnan and Ewan McGregor	everyday communication
9	The Ghost Writer (2009)	British	Ewan McGregor and Olivia Williams	everyday communication
10	Tamara Drewe (2010)	British	Tamsin Greig and Roger Allam	quarrel

- availability of a wide range of verbal, paraverbal and nonverbal communication means.

Auditory perception

The subjects had to listen to soundtracks without a visual series and determine: the number of communicants, the emotional coloring of communication, the prosodic components of the communicative act, the ethnicity of the communicants and substantiate their opinion¹. The experiment was carried out in a room convenient for listening and analyzing soundtracks. To fulfill the task, the subjects listened to the experimental material many times.

¹See: Potapova R. K., Potapov V. V. Kommunikative Sprechfähigkeit. Russland und Deutschland im Vergleich. Köln, [etc.]: Böhlau Verlag, 2011; Потапова Р. К., Потапов В. В., Лебелева Н. Н., Агбалова Т. В. Поликодовая среда Интернета и проблемы валеологии. М.: ЯСК, 2020; Potapova R., Potapov V., Lebedeva N., Karimova E., Bobrov N. The influence of multimodal polycode Internet content on human brain activity // Karpov A., Potapova R. (eds.) SPECOM 2020. LNAI. Cham: Springer. Vol. 12335. P. 412–423.

Experiment No. 1. Results

The results of the subjects' assessment of the perceptual image of the communicants through the auditory canal are characterized by the following data:

- almost all participants, both English-speaking and native speakers of the Russian language, were able to correctly establish the ethnicity of the communicants (USA or Great Britain) in 90% of cases. When substantiating their opinion, the subjects referred to the speakers' accent, which helped them to determine the belonging of the communicants to one ethnic group or another. One participant was unable to give the correct answer (10%). This is due to the low level of knowledge of the English language due to the inability to distinguish between American English and British English;
- the subjects in total with a high degree of accuracy (100%) decoded the thematic specifics of communications (the type of a communicative situation);
- the emotional attitude was also correctly determined with a small margin of error of 20% of the total, that is, 80%;

– the determination of prosodic means caused some difficulties for the native speakers of the Russian language, while the American subjects coped with the task completely, which in total corresponds to 70%. Compared to native speakers of the Russian language, native speakers of English rely more on such prosodic means as the volume and color of the voice, tempo and melody of speech in determining the emotional mood of communication.

Thus, the representatives of the American ethnoses gave more accurate answers regarding the English-speaking informants (actors). Accustomed to more open and loud communication among themselves (as a national feature in general), they easily identified video fragments where only English actors were involved. However, one should not exclude the influence of the English accent on the accuracy of the answers. It should be emphasized that it was the American subjects who paid great attention to prosodic characteristics when filling out the questionnaire. The emerging tendency towards a greater number of errors when decoding material in an unfamiliar language can be explained by errors in understanding caused by insufficient knowledge of a foreign language. An inadequate assessment of the pause may be associated with a lack of semantic information due to the fact that the subjects perceptually decoded a foreign language speech without knowing the analyzed language [Потапова, Потапов, 2008].

Perception through the visual channel

The subjects had to watch video fragments without sound accompaniment and determine: the number of participants, the emotional coloring of the communication, the nonverbal components of the communicative act (head and body movements, hand gestures, facial expressions, gaze, body position in space and in relation to the other interlocutor, iconic body movements, clothing, environment), indicate the ethnicity of the communicants (USA or UK) and

substantiate his/her opinion. The experiment was carried out in a room convenient for viewing and analyzing video files. The task was intended to be completed individually, so the subjects were not allowed to discuss the details of the experiment. During the study, the subjects could watch video clips an unlimited number of times.

CONCLUSIONS

- all subjects decoded with a high degree of accuracy 100% the thematic specifics of communication (the type of a communicative situation);
- the subjects experienced difficulties in determining the ethnicity of the actors (70% of correct answers), even the participants with good knowledge of the English language in some fragments incorrectly identified the communicants;
- the subjects that were native speakers of the Russian language, attributed more active gestures, facial expressions, a fast pace of speech, smiling and openness to the American speakers, while the majority of the subjects perceived the restrained, taciturn, reserved and gloomy participants in the communicative act as Englishmen;
- the general emotional mood was correctly determined by the majority of the subjects (90%), with the exception of one native speaker of Russian;
- It is worth noting that native speakers of American English accurately identified the representatives of the American and British linguocultures, correctly identified the emotional mood and nonverbal means indicating this attitude.

In general, it should be noted that native speakers of English more accurately decoded representatives of American and British linguocultures than representatives of Russian linguoculture. This may be due to their perceptual awareness of the behavior of American and British actors.

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