Intonation Analysis of The Movie: Fall from Grace

Abdullah Uday Hussein
Hsteel96@gmail.com
Asst. Prof. Rafida Mansour (PhD)
Mustansiriya University, college of Arts, Department of English Language

DOI: https://doi.org/10.31973/aj.v3i143.3935

ABSTRACT:
Language has really changed in many aspects through the past hundred years or so. There are many factors due to which this transformation is seen in the present-day life in comparison with the more distant life; the modernization of the lives of the individuals as well as the communities around the globe, the invention of advanced technology in all fields of science, the awakening scientific discoveries and the rapidity of life has brought upon some coarse changes in languages, especially in English language. The purpose of this research is to know whether the language has really changed in terms of intonation throughout a few decades or not. For this purpose, some scenes from the modern movie have been taken into consideration. The analysis of the data has paved the way for tremendous results and outcomes in the attitudinal function of intonation in the modern-day English that have been illustrated in both tabular and graphic form.

This study definitively answered the question regarding changes in the intonation in English language through the past century.

Key Words: Intonation – Science – Pitch – Falling intonation – Rising intonation.

Section One: Introduction

1.1. Background study

Intonation is a variation in spoken language not only for recognizing words to be sememes also known as tone, in any case, preferably, for a scope of different capacities, for example, demonstrating the perspectives and feelings of a person speaking, flagging the contrast among assertive and interrogative sentences, and between various kinds of interrogatives, zeroing in consideration on significant components of the expressed context and furthermore assisting with managing conversational collaboration. The phenomenon tone is utilized by few British scholars in their depictions of inflection however to allude to the intonation development found on the core or tone syllable in a sound particle.

1.2. The problem

As far as the modern world has observed the rapid changes in culture, religion, science and technology etcetera, a lot of other things have been prone to tremendous changes throughout a period of time; most probably, the past century. The problem of the study embodied in the
following question which is whether the intonation has also changed amid this rampant modification or not?

1.3. The aims
The study aims to measuring the changes that have occurred to the intonation of the English language through *Fall From Grace.*

1.4. The procedures
1- The research would investigate theories of the intonation
2- The researcher would use specific program (The software package WASP) to analyze the intonation of the selected movie.
3- Analysis of the results would also be presented.
4- Conclusions would also be included.

Section Two: Literature Review

2.1 Definition
Intonation: "The rise and fall of the voice in speaking" (Ladd 2008.) "Accuracy of pitch in playing or singing, or on a stringed instrument such as a guitar" (Carr 2013.)

Tone: "A musical or vocal sound with reference to its pitch, quality, and strength" (Roach 2010.) "The general character or attitude of a place, piece of writing, situation, etc." (Carr 2013.)

Pitch: "Highness or lowness of sound" (DeCasper, 1994.) "The quality of a sound governed by the rate of vibrations producing it; the degree of highness or lowness of a tone" (Graven, 2008.)

Rising intonation: "A rising intonation pattern would simply be a rise in the human voice; it would be a change in pitch; a glide in the pitch of our voice upwards (Johnson 2012.)

Falling intonation: "It describes how the voice falls towards the end of a group of words (Carr 2013.) “It describes how the voice falls on the final stressed syllable of a phrase or a group of words.” (Roach 2005)

Rise-fall intonation: " It would simply mean that the pitch of the voice drops down ..." (Johnson 2012.) “It is used rise-fall intonation for choices, lists, unfinished thoughts and conditional sentences.” (Roach 2013)

Fall-rise intonation: “Fall-rise intonation describes how the voice falls and then rises. We use fall-rise intonation at the end of statements when we want to say that we are not sure, or when we may have more to add.” (Johnson 2012)

Transcription: Most record shows have been conceived for portraying one specific highlight or language, and the particular shows along these lines should be clarified with regards to what is being depicted.

2.2. Prosodic Theory
The development in intonation has been seen in different regions in most of the English-speaking countries; most specifically this study limits the discussion to the progress in the United States and in England.

Speaking and understanding English doesn't just come from using correct grammar and vocabulary. Native English speakers convey meaning in their sentences with pitch, the ups and the downs, and the musical notes of their sentences. For example, the following two sentences contain the same words but is there a difference in meanings?
1. She got a dog.
2. She got a dog?

In these two simple sentences the focus word of the sentence (the word that gets the most emphasis) is "dog", but what happened with the sound of the focus word. In sentence 1 the intonation went down to indicate the completion of the thought. In sentence 2 the intonation went way up to indicate surprise. The patterns of ups and downs of the voice and the pitch on and after the focus word which is usually at the end of a sentence or question is called Intonation. In English, there are three intonation patterns: rise, a full fall, and a partial fall (Crystal 1975, p. 11)

2.3. Syllable

A syllable is essentially a single unit of speech and that unit of speech tends to contain a vowel sound and that may have a consonant after it or before it, it may even have what is called a cluster of Consonants which means more than one consonant before it or after it. A syllable is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Now, let's figure out what really a syllable is. Consider the few examples. Let's take the word "BOOK". This word has a single syllable or a single beat. Let's take the word "MOON". Once again, it has a single beat or a single syllable. Let's take the word "TABLE". This word has 2 syllables or 2 beats. Let's take another word "DRAMA". Again, this word has 2 syllables or 2 beats. Now let's take a bigger word. Let's say "BANANA" which has 3 syllables.

2.4. Stress

Here are all of these rules about how to stress a syllable and how to stress a word which are quite useful, but when we got a sentence or a question or a comment or statement or exclamation which word in that sentence or that phrase should I stress. And there are scores and scores of ideas about this and how you should do it in English and in British English.

2.5. Pitch

Pitch is the highness or the lowness of your voice. In other words, it's the frequency of the sound waves that you produce when you're speaking.

Place of Articulation

Is the way in which consonants are articulated in human languages.

Manner of Articulation

Is how exactly you do you produce the sounds. What do you do to the airstream when you speak the air typically goes out right.

2.6. Environmental influences

Paul, Rhea & Elwood (1991) show that small fry sets contribute to language development. The setting provides language input to the grave. Adult youth speech provides the child with correct language use over and over again. The environmental impacts of the language development unit have been tested from time to time by the culture of human communication with researchers such as theologizer Bruner (1992), Alison Gopnik (2001), St Andrew Meltzoff (1999), Anat Ninio (1999), Roy Pea (2001), Catherine Snow (1992), Ernest Moerk (2000) and the archangel Tomasello (1991).

The administrative body of Theologizer Bruner laid the foundations for this approach during the 19th Century, emphasizing that the "arrogance"
of a child's adult makes the effort to learn the language well an important biological process.

2.7. Cultural and socioeconomic effects

Owens (2012) adds that the majority of young people around the world developed the language to the same extent as the hygiene, culture and social and economic diversity that has been shown to influence development. A parallel example of cultural differences in language development is seen once again when you compare the interactions of mothers at times u. s. and their mothers with mothers in Japan. Mothers from time-to-time u. s. use some questions, a unit of measurement information, and use some correct grammar words with their three-month-old children.

Section Three: Research Methodology

3.1 Design of the Study

In order to analyze the data thoroughly, first of all Wondershare Filmora is chosen to cut the movie into many scenes to get the desired data and the researcher chooses 5 scenes. After that, the dialogues are extracted and converted into WAV file. The software package WASP was used to measure the frequency and pitch of the sounds (both maximum and minimum).

The first choice that is intended to square measure is planning to analyze from the film is a spoken communication between characters from the movie Fall from Grace 2020 in an exceedingly calm state of affairs. only few phrases have been taken into consideration, one spoken by every character.

Analyzing character’s Tone

The falling intonation in the beginning and rising intonation at the end has been observed in the graph. The intensity and period are considered to be as much as 38996 for the intensity and 1.567.5s for the period of the phrase. During this vocalization the actor created ten syllables in 65.55s, in order that makes 7,4 syllables a second.

Rory: Your next case.
Jasmine: Grace Waters, I can’t do this.
Rory: Yeah you can and you will. She wants to plead guilty so this is completely easy.
Jasmine: What about giving it to Tilsa or Donnie?

Fall from Grace’ Scene (01)
Analyzing character’s Tone

The rising intonation at the beginning and falling intonation at the end has been observed in the graph. It’s worth noting once analyzing the graphs from WASP that within the scene the actor starts with a pitch of 169Hz reaching subsequently the most pitch height of 530 characterizing an increase on the word believe, that appears to be the main target of the vocalization. As a result, it reaches the maximum pitch of the full phrase. Towards the very end of the vocalization, he uses little pitch movement [ranging from one hundred 5750 Hz to a bit lesser than a hundred cycle per second] over the little pitch movement. Reaching the end to the word.

Donnie: I cannot believe he gave it to you.
Tilsa: Donnie, shut the hell up.
Donnie: I don’t understand.
Tilsa: OK but who asked you?

‘Fall from Grace’ Scene (02)
Analyzing Character’s Tone

The rising intonation at the beginning and falling intonation at the end has been observed in the graph. It’s worth noting once analyzing the graphs from WASP that within the scene the actor starts with a pitch of 1560Hz reaching subsequently the most pitch height of 7860 characterizing an increase on the word lawyer, that appears to be the main target of the vocalization. As a result, it reaches the maximum pitch of the full phrase. Towards the very end of the vocalization, he uses little pitch movement [ranging from one hundred 4670 Hz to a bit lesser than a hundred cycle per second] over the little pitch movement.

Grace: I told them I don’t wanna a lawyer.
Jasmine: Well, if not me then some other lawyer will be here.
Grace: How old are you?
Jasmine: Twenty six.
Analyzing character’s Tone

The rising intonation at the beginning and falling intonation at the end has been observed in the graph. It’s worth noting once analyzing the graphs from WASP that within the scene the actor starts with a pitch of 140Hz reaching subsequently the most pitch height of 7560 characterizing an increase on the word life, that appears to be the main target of the vocalization. As a result, it reaches the maximum pitch of the full phrase. Towards the very end of the vocalization, he uses little pitch movement [ranging from one hundred 970 Hz to a bit lesser than a hundred cycle per second] over the little pitch movement. Reaching the end to the word .

Prosecutor: absolutely not. I want life without parole.
Jasmine: Are you serious? She has no record. She’s a model citizen. She has no priors
Prosecutor: No deal. She wants to plead. She gets the max.
Jasmine: What about giving her Milstorm Prison so she’ll be closer to her son?

3.2. Analysis of the Results
3.2.1 Scene1- Fall from Grace

Rory: Your next case.
Jasmine: Grace Waters, I can’t do this.
Rory: Yeah you can and you will. She wants to plead guilty so this is completely easy.
Jasmine: What about giving it to Tilsa or Donnie?
The scene starts with rising intonation and ends with falling intonation in the second movie. The rising intonation is used here to state that the character is doubting the other and the truth isn’t really clear with a firm pitch; the rising intonation is normally used to check or confirm something. Then Falling intonation is used when the situation is clearer between the characters to exchange statements in a less firm or intimidating pitch.

3.2.2 Scene 2
  Donnie: I cannot believe he gave it to you.
  Tilsa: Donnie, shut the hell up.
  Donnie: I don’t understand.
  Tilsa: OK but who asked you?
  
The scene begins with rising intonation and concludes with falling intonation in the second movie. The rising intonation is operated here to state that the character is questioning the other and the truth isn’t accurately strong with a strong pitch; the rising intonation is regularly exploited to check or support something. At that point the falling intonation and slightly lower pitch is utilized when the state of affairs is clearer between the characters to trade articulations in a less hostile manner.

3.2.3 Scene 3-
  Grace: I told them I don’t wanna a lawyer.
  Jasmine: Well, if not me then some other lawyer will be here.
  Grace: How old are you?
  Jasmine: Twenty six.
  
  This scene from the second movie starts with rising intonation and concludes with falling intonation. The pitch in this scene here signifies that the character is addressing the other and the truth isn’t precisely solid with a muddled pitch; the rising intonation is frequently applied to navigate or sustain something. At this point the falling intonation followed by the somewhat lower pitch is utilized when the state of the matters is clearer between the characters to exchange verbalizations in a less threatening technique.

3.2.4 Scene 4
  Prosecutor: absolutely not. I want life without parole.
  Jasmine: Are you serious? She has no record. She’s a model citizen.
  She has no priors
  Prosecutor: No deal. She wants to plead. She gets the max.
  Jasmine: What about giving her Milstorm Prison so she’ll be closer to her son?
  
The scene begins with rising intonation and concludes with falling intonation in the second movie. The rising intonation is operated here to state that the character is questioning the other and the truth isn’t accurately strong with a strong pitch; the rising intonation is regularly exploited to check or support something. At that point the falling intonation and slightly lower pitch is utilized when the state of affairs is clearer between the characters to trade articulations in a less hostile manner.
3.2.5.Scene5

Jasmine: They’re offering a maximum, life without the possibility of parole.
Grace: That’s the best they can do?
Jasmine: He’s eminent about it.
Grace: OK

The scene begins with rising intonation and concludes with falling intonation in the second movie. The rising intonation is operated here to state that the character is questioning the other and the truth isn’t accurately strong with a strong pitch; the rising intonation is regularly exploited to check or support something. At that point the falling intonation and slightly lower pitch is utilized when the state of affairs is clearer between the characters to trade articulations in a less hostile manner.

Section Four: Conclusion

Based on the result of the data analysis, it can be concluded that the English language has changed so much over the decades because the language is always shifting, growing, and adjusting to the requirements of the speakers. The change isn’t necessarily bad or good; if the language never changed over the past hundred years, the speakers wouldn’t know words to discuss iphones, digital printers, or Wi-Fi. Given that the desires of language speakers never stay the same, then the language will never stay as it is either. The change could be very incidental that it is hardly noticed over the years.

The characters tend to use the rising intonation to exchange statements between themselves and they use falling intonation to end express doubt to the other characters.

The characters in the movie almost always use a steady pitch; no too high or too low. But sometimes the high pitch is used when the characters get a little bit emotional. But overall, the steady pitch is the dominant one. This movie uses the steady pitch to show that characters are strong but not savage, polite but not cowards.

References


Brazil, David; Coulthard, Malcolm; Johns, Catherine (1980). Discourse intonation and language teaching. Longman.


تحليل النبرة للفلم: السقوط من العظمة

الباحث: عبد الله عدي حسين

الإشراف: أ.م. د. رافده منصور الحلو

الجامعة المستنصرية- كلية الآداب- قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

المستخلص

لقد تغيرت اللغة في العديد من الجوانب خلال المائة عام الماضية، حيث أن هناك العديد من العوامل التي أدت إلى ظهور هذا التحول في الحياة الحالية مقارنة بالحياة الماضية؛ وكذلك في المجتمعات في جميع أنحاء العالم، كما أدى اختراع التكنولوجيا المتقدمة في جميع مجالات العلوم والاكتشافات العلمية إلى احداث بعض التغييرات الأساسية في اللغة، وخاصة اللغة الإنجليزية.

تعد الدراسة الحالية أول دراسة في مجال علم الأصوات والغرض من هذا البحث هو معرفة ما إذا كانت اللغة قد تغيرت بالفعل من حيث النبرة الصوتية على مدار عقود قليلة من الزمن.

من أجل تحقيق هذا الغرض، تم أخذ بعض المقابلات من الأفلام القديمة والحديثة لغرض التحليل من خلال استخدام برنامج WASP، حيث تم قياس التغييرات في النبرة الصوتية؛ وقد تم تم قياس التغييرات في النبرة الصوتية للفلم، وهو جديد.

مصداقية هذه الدراسة الحالية بالمحافظة التي أجراها باحثون آخرون في مجال الدراسة المحددة. كما تم تحليل البيانات الطريقة التي نتائج هائلة في الوظيفة السلكية للنبرة الصوتية في اللغة الإنجليزية الحديثة التي تم توضيحها في كل من الشكل الجدولي والرسومات، أليحفت هذه الدراسة الحالية بشكل نهائي على السؤال المتعلق بتغيرات في النبرة الصوتية في اللغة الإنجليزية خلال القرن الماضي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النبرة- العلم- الاهتزاز- النبرة المنخفضة- النبرة المرتفعة

26