

FORMANT ANALYSIS OF VOWELS IN TAOAN DIALECT OF GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

ABSTRACT

Currently, Tao is part of the Republic of Turkey where the autochthon ethnic Georgians live. The Taoan dialect has a considerable influence of the Turkish language, therefore, it is interesting to examine the speech of Georgians living in Turkey. The article is dealing with the formant specification of simple and palatalized o, O sounds of the Taoan dialect of the Georgian language. By using several software, the paper describes similarities and differences between acoustic indicators of sounds of the Georgian literary language and the Taoan dialect. The picture obtained as a result of formant analysis, determines main spectral features of the vowel sounds. Our research is mostly based on male speech.

In general terms, F1 and F2 formants are of special importance for the identification of vowels. F1 is defined by vowel height or openness, while F2 is defined by backness. It means that the lower the vowel height, the higher the F1 frequency, while the more back the vowel, the lower the F2 frequency.

The analysis of the above-mentioned vowels revealed the following picture: in non-labial a, e, i vowels of the Taoan dialect, F2 is higher compared to the one in the Georgian literary language, while in labial o and u vowels it is the other way around - F2 is lower, compared to the Literary Georgian. This suggests that unlike literary Georgian, the non-labial vowels in the speech of the Taoan Georgians are pronounced more back, while the labial vowels are pronounced more front.

The study is based on the oral samples from Taoan dialect recorded by us during the scientific expeditions carried out in Tao villages (Yusufeli District, Turkey) in 2006-2018.

The proposed paper includes illustrative materials – diagrams, spectrograms, oscillograms, etc.

Keywords: Georgian language, Taoan dialect, analysis of vowel formants.