MIRENA PATSEVA
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
✉ mirena.patseva@gmail.com

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON ACCENTUATION IN THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

Abstract
Within the framework of Levelt’s psycholinguistic speech production model, the phonological default stress refers to the lexical form whose elements are morphemes, a metric frame, and segmental content. The question here is whether the regular phonological trends are independent of morphological characteristics in a language with a lexical accent, such as the Bulgarian language. The data from the productive study with acronyms, i.e. in the absence of a specific accent specification of the morphemes, show that by accentuating them, regularities appear that are leading in the language as a whole. Penultimate stress is dominant among units that end in a vowel, interpreted as a word ending, and ultimate accent – among units ending in a consonant. The result is interpreted as an orientation to the right border of the word base. This means that the phonological stress in a language with a lexical accent system is bound to the morphological factor even in the case of acronyms and reflects common accentual tendencies in the language.

Keywords: phonological default accent, acronyms, psycholinguistic model for speech production, Bulgarian word stress