



QUALITY AND QUANTITY REDUCTION

Radjabov Nasir Nasimovich

Associate Professor of the Foreign Language
Department of the Military technical Institute
of the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Doctor of Philosophy on Philological Sciences,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan. E-mail: nasirnasimovich@mail.ru
Phone: +998903190409.

Abstract:

The article deals with the specific peculiarities of the types of reduction. It states that the reduction as a phonetic phenomenon influences a speech sound in general, including both vowels and consonants. The research also reveals the differences and similarities between the quality and quantity reduction. The article is concluded that it is expedient to consider the quality and quantity reduction as mutually compatible phonetic phenomena, as these types of reduction do not occur in complete isolation from each other.

Key words:

Reduction, quality reduction, quantity reduction, vowel, consonant, articulation, vowel intensity, vowel strength

In linguistics, two types of reduction are mainly differentiated, they are qualitative reduction and quantitative reduction [3, 195]. The types of reduction are usually determined by the specific characteristics of a particular language. Accordingly, the other types of reduction may also occur in some languages. For example, in English, in addition to the reduction of quality and quantity, there is also *full reduction* (omission of an unstressed vowel as a result of reduction) [7, 95-96]. Reduction, as a phenomenon specific to speech sound, can affect both vowels and consonants. Consonant reduction is manifested in the weakening of the articulation of consonant sounds in the unstressed syllable [1, 232]. The reduction of vowels also occurs mainly in the unstressed syllable. In this case, the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of vowels vary in some degrees. V.A. Vassilyev notes that the reduction of vowels is a phenomenon specific to Russian, English and some other languages, and in some languages the reduction of vowels does not occur at all, citing examples of Japanese, Italian, Polish [6, 215]. The absence of vowel reduction in these languages indicates that their sound systems have a specific phonetic structure. The place of articulation has an important role in reducing of vowels. Because the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of vowels differ according to their place of articulation. This determines the degree to which the vowels are prone to reduction. In Turkic languages, the quantitative features of vowels depends on the height of language, close vowels are shorter than open vowels, and therefore they undergo more qualitative and quantitative changes [5, 58].

Specific peculiarities of quality and quantity reductions are interpreted differently by linguists. A.A. Reformatsky points out that in the quantity reduction, the length and intensity of the vowel are reduced while maintaining its the qualitative characteristic. According to him, in the quality reduction, as in the quantity reduction, the length and intensity of the vowel are reduced. But at the same time in quality reduction, the vowel loses some of its qualitative peculiarities that is important to form it. As a result of losing its qualitative peculiarities, a vowel looks like another sound. A.A. Reformatsky gives the words *воды* [v'odɨ] - *вода* [vɔd'a] as an example of vowel's changing to another sound due to the quality reduction [3, 195-196]. V.A. Vassilyev points out that duration of

vowels is reduced in the quantity reduction while maintaining their qualitative peculiarities. He defines the quality reduction as the phenomenon of transformation of a vowel into another sound due to a change in their qualitative features [7, 95-96]. J.Mamatov identifies the quantity reduction as reducing of vowel length and quality reduction as a decrease in the intensity and pitch of a vowel. When he refers to quality reduction, he does not mean a change of a vowel to another sound, but a decrease in its one or another qualitative feature [2, 13-16]. The main reason for the different interpretations of qualitative reduction is that the sound structure of languages has its own characteristics. For instance, qualitative reduction does not change vowels to a completely different sound in the Uzbek language because of its specific sound structure. But in languages such as English and Russian, vowels change to another sound due to the qualitative reduction. Since the qualitative reduction was regarded as changing of vowels into other sounds, it was considered that "mainly the quantitative reduction occurs in Turkic languages" [5, 94]. However, it should be pointed out that in the quality reduction, the vowel changes to a different sound only when the influence of reduction to a vowel is high, otherwise the vowel, which is reduced to a lesser degree, retains its main quality features. J. Mamatov, who studied the phenomenon of reduction on the basis of phonetic experiment, determines that the quality reduction exists in the Uzbek language [2] too. But this quality reduction is not at the level of changing the vowel to another sound. Although the qualitative and quantitative types of reduction are differentiated in linguistics, we think that separating these types of reduction from each other is considered as "conditional". In fact, the quality and quantity reductions do not occur in isolation from each other. The quality reduction, though in a little degree, occurs in any quantity reduction while there is also a certain amount of quantitative reduction in any quality reduction. L.V.Shcherba, in its turn, mentioned it and noted that "the quantity reduction is the main reason for the quality reduction" [4, 104].

In conclusion, it should be noted that the qualitative and quantitative types of reduction are mutually compatible and do not occur in complete isolation from each other. Depending on the phonetic context, sometimes a change in the qualitative feature of a sound is predominant, and sometimes a change in its quantitative peculiarity is a priority. If the change in the qualitative feature of the sound undergoing reduction is predominant, it is considered as the quality reduction whereas the change in the quantity feature is greater, it is regarded as quantity reduction. The quality reduction, though in a little degree, occurs in any quantity reduction while there is also a certain amount of quantity reduction in any quality reduction. So, it is expedient to consider the reduction of quality and quantity as a phonetic phenomenon which requires the existence of one in the other in some degrees depending on the phonetic context

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