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BSc Degree

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English II (Advanced English)

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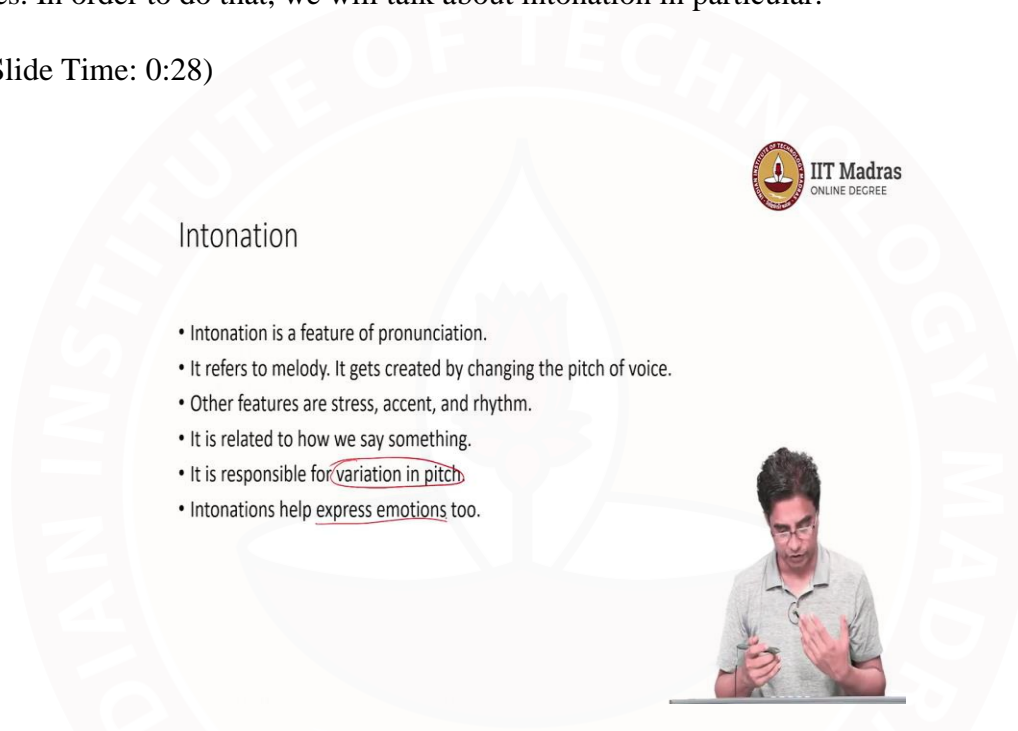
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Intonation in English

Welcome to the class. Today, we are going to talk about some of the features of sounds and sentences. In order to do that, we will talk about intonation in particular.

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The slide is titled "Intonation" and features a list of six bullet points. The text "IIT Madras ONLINE DEGREE" is visible in the top right corner of the slide area. A video inset in the bottom right shows a man speaking.

Intonation

- Intonation is a feature of pronunciation.
- It refers to melody. It gets created by changing the pitch of voice.
- Other features are stress, accent, and rhythm.
- It is related to how we say something.
- It is responsible for variation in pitch.
- Intonations help express emotions too.

What is intonation? Let us look at that, and along with intonation, that is what it is; we need to look at why is it important to look at intonation? Third, we need to understand how does it help us improve our learning, that is, understanding about intonation and some other features of sounds and conversations, some of the features that become crucial in our subconscious pattern, why are they important for us to understand to improve our learning better.

So, intonation is a feature of pronunciation, meaning it becomes prominent only when we start speaking. So, this a specific part or certain things that we are going to discuss are not visible in written form of the language, or when we read them, unless, unless it has been specified otherwise, sometimes writers do adopt strategies to indicate their intentions or what they want

readers to understand. So, unless it is done that way, we do not see the impact of these things in written language.

So, we are keeping reading and writing aside, and for the time being, we are talking about how these things impact when we speak and how these things get interpreted by the listener. So, it refers to melody; again, it is related to speech; it is created by changing the pitch of the voice. When we speak, we keep shifting our pitch. We by pitch, we mean pitch is another feature that we need to know; by pitch, we mean when we speak the intensity of sounds, we change the intensity to create certain effects. And that is responsible for what we know as intonation.

So, pitch is part of intonation. Some other features that are crucial, along with this, I just to name a few for you to understand. You can make an effort to look at these things. Some of these features are stress, accent, rhythm, the one that we mentioned, pitch, tone. These are the terms that we need to understand about spoken language. We use these terms in regular conversations as well that I did not like the tone. Some people say I did not like the tone. What do people actually mean?

I did not; you have an accent? What does it mean? It was very rhythmic. What does that rhythm mean? And do not stress things just like that; I am just creating few sentences from the top of my mind to use these terms like pitch, stress, rhythm, accent, tone to allow you to look at what we mean. If you look at the sentence, you will understand what these things mean. But we need to look at how it works in the language. For example, like I said, when somebody says I did not like the tone in which it was spoken, what does the speaker want to say? What is it that the speaker did not like?

And what part of speech does it refer to. The speaker has a very clear idea. The listener also understands that there was something wrong, but still, it does not give us a picture of what we mean by tone. So, let us move ahead. So, in short, intonation and these features are related to how we say something and what we intend to mean. In particular, intonation is responsible for variation in the pitch and intonation also helps us express several things. That is, a little shift in intonation can also give you some idea about the emotional aspects of the speaker as well.

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Other features

- Stress is about prominence of a syllable.
- Tone is the manner of sounds.
- Intonation is about change in pitch.
- Rhythm is about change in stress at intervals.
- Pitch refers to relative height of tones in acoustics. It happens to correlate tones and intonations.



So, like we said, features like stress, tone, intonation, rhythm pitch, what are they? Let us briefly look at them. Stress is about the prominence of a syllable; again, a syllable is a unit of a word, where a vowel is the nucleus and a word can be broken into syllables and syllables can further be broken in two sounds, it is possible that a word has only one syllable, but it is also possible that word has multiple syllables like 2, 3, 4 and 5 and sometimes more. So, when one syllable in a word gets prominence, that is called stress.

The tone is the manner of sound; it is about intensity; it is generated through the intensity of pitch. And intonation is about change in that pitch. A rhythm is changing the stress at intervals. And again, pitch refers to the relative height of tones in our acoustics, that is, when we hear something the high or low, the tones can be either at a high pitch or at a low pitch.

So, therefore, I am mentioning it as pitch refers to the height of the tone in our acoustics; acoustics simply means in our list. So, pitch happens to correlate tones and intonations. So, in other words, or in short, pitch, tone, intonation, they are all related, there are differences between them, but and they, they do different things, but they are related in one way.

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Types of intonation

- We realize it from the way we speak.

- Rising

- Falling

- Flat

Tone $\begin{cases} H \\ L \end{cases}$

Statement



So, specifically talking about intonation today, there are three types of intonations. One like tone can be, also of at least two types. So, high and low. Similarly, intonation is rising, falling or flat. So, when we speak something, and it feels like we are moving up, hear me out moving up; that is called rising intonation. There could be flat intonation, where we do not see either rise or fall. It is levelled, and therefore it is called flat. So, there are three, rising, falling and flat intonation. Each one of them have different functions.

So, for example, we use flat intonation, mostly for statements. Our declarative sentences usually have flat intonation. And we create, we allow the intonation to rise or too low to create different impacts.

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Intonation in sentence

- Sentence final intonation helps determine the type of a sentence.
- Rising intonation at the end of a sentence makes a sentence in a question.
- Did you want to go home?
- Did you want to go?
- Did you know?
- Did you know what they said?

John is a doctor.



So, let us look at it. So, one of the most famous and most obvious things for us to know about intonation is intonation at the final position; that is final intonation helps determine the type of a sentence. So, just to take one example, the rising intonation of the end of a sentence makes a question, marks a question. That is, even if you are, so I have few question sentences first, I want to talk about it. And then I will come back to statements.

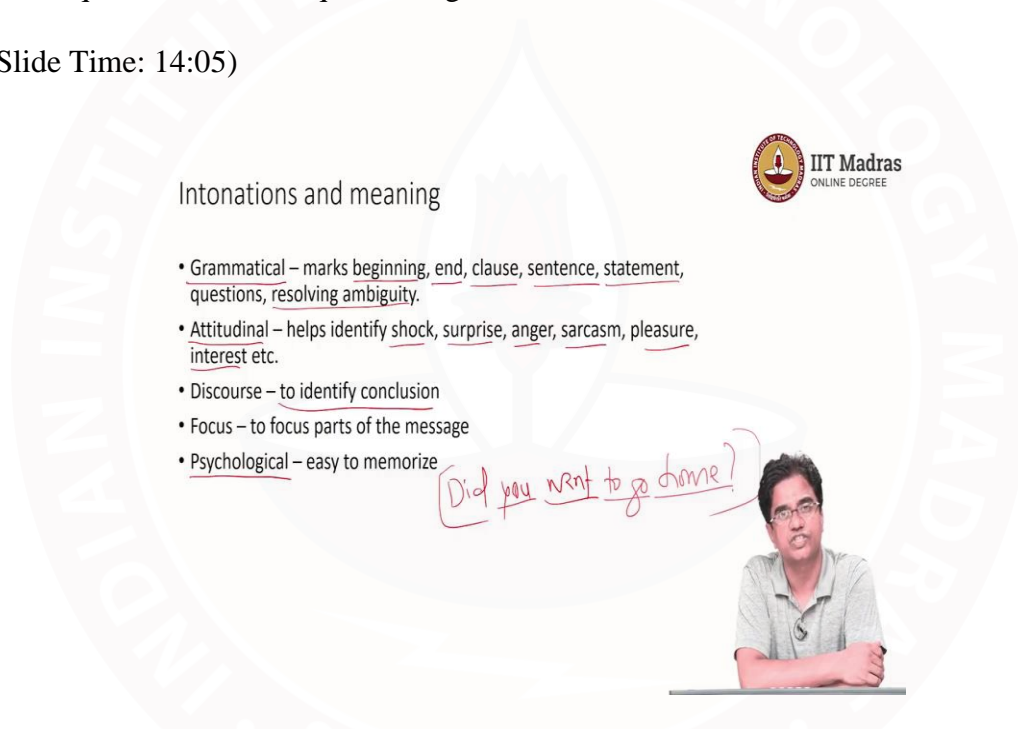
So, did you want to go home? There is no rise fall, it is flat. It is obviously a question that is because it is an interrogative sentence. Did you want to go? Flat intonation, do you know? Flat intonation. Did you know what they said? Flat intonation, but if we rise our intonation at the end of the sentence, then we are adding a little bit more to the type of the sentence did you want to go home? Did you want to go home? Did you want to go home? Did you want, did you want to go home? You see the rise and fall of intonation in these sentences.

So, depending upon the place where we are rising, it changes the meaning of the sentence it changes the intention of the speaker and so in the first one, I was trying to put a rising intonation at home in the second one, I tried to put a go and in the third one at want and the fourth one at you. So, in all in one sentence, this one sentence can be spoken in four different ways with four different meanings. So, we create this effect through rising intonation.

So, we can say, did you know what they said? It has a meaning where we are putting emphasis on 'you'. Did you know what they said? We are talking about the act of knowing in prominence. Did you know what they said? We can use rising intonation for the whole clause, but even within the clause, we can use couple of places for rising intonation. So, basically, the point is intonation at different places allows us to add effect which in turn gives a completely different meaning.

Even in a simple sentence like, John is a doctor, a really simple sentence, John is a doctor you must have heard people speak sentences like this, John is a doctor, you see the intonation is rising at doctor, this rise in intonation is converting this declarative sentences simple-looking sentence into question that I am questioning the fact that John is a doctor.


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Intonations and meaning

- Grammatical – marks beginning, end, clause, sentence, statement, questions, resolving ambiguity.
- Attitudinal – helps identify shock, surprise, anger, sarcasm, pleasure, interest etc.
- Discourse – to identify conclusion
- Focus – to focus parts of the message
- Psychological – easy to memorize

Did you want to go home?



It has talking about the meaning that I just described. It can affect several different levels. So but I am talking about intonation, so when we, well and the levels where it can affect things are, it can change things or grammatical level in the sense that, you through the use of tone and by paying attention to the tone you can look at that it marks beginning of a sentence, beginning of an a statement or the end of a statement.

It also allows us to understand whether it is a clause or a sentence, which we just discussed, whether it is a statement or a question, or are we resolving it. It is also used to resolve ambiguity. So, like I said, did you want to go home? A sentence 'did you want to go home', though, in a

level in a flat tone is a simple declarative sentence could have one specific meaning. But this sentence can be interpreted in several with several different meanings. So, by paying attention to tone at one place, we are rolling out the rest of the meaning. So, let us look at it one more time; sentence is, did you want to go home? A sentence is let me write it one more time.

Did you want to go home? If I revise my intonation at home, that has one meaning; if I raise my intonation to go, it has another meaning; if I rise my intonation at one, it has another meaning. And if I put it at you, did you want to go home? It has one meaning; did you want to go home has another meaning; Did you want to go home? Another meaning did you want to go home another. So, paying attention to intonation at one place helps us rule out rest of the meaning. Therefore, it is a function of resolving ambiguity as well.

And it also adds towards a few attitudinal issues where it helps us identify things like shock, surprise, anger, sarcasm, pleasure, interest, etcetera. So, by paying attention to how people speak and use intonation, we can find out whether a person with a sense of shock, surprise, anger, sarcasm, pleasure, interest, and a few more; basically, I am just mentioning a few emotions related to our attitude.

It can help you identify conclusions in a discourse, because people have different intonation at the beginning, and people have different intonation at the end of the discourse. So, at the level of discourse, it can help you identify so many things when we use intonation to focus parts of the message. So like, again, this example that did you want to go home that I used. So, when we which part is in focus, we can use the tone to put that in focus.

At the same time, it has a psychological level added to it as well, which means if you pay attention to tones, it is easy for you to memorize. It happens to us, when we hear somebody being sarcastic. The tone and the use of intonation through which somebody made it sarcastic. If we pay attention to that, we not only remember sentences, but we also remember the entire event and the context in which the whole event was embedded.

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Things to notice ...

- Helps us find what is not obvious.
- This is a subconscious process.



So, what I am trying to tell you is. I want to wind it out by telling you that there are several things that we need to notice. It helps us find out what is not so obvious in a conversation. It is features like intonation, tone, pitch, which attract our attention to figure out what is called in between the lights, what is called subtext, what is called intentionality.

Therefore, these features are important for us to get the point. So, when we speak, we not only speak to actual sentences but by adding these things to what we wanted to say. We say way more than what sentences can say. I once again invite you to sit down, relax, think about these things. Listen to people when they speak carefully, and see how you get these employed intentionality and other related meanings that we discussed from how people speak.

Looking forward to a further discussion with you on this; hope this was helpful. Thank you so much.