

ARTICLE

The Influence of Courtroom Discourse on Public Perception through Mass Media

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to conduct a perceptual analysis of news reports among multilingual respondents (159 participants) to identify how prosodic features (e.g., intonation, tempo, pauses, and emphasis) affect listeners' perception of news reports, which words participants mentioned, and the extent to which these words relate to legal terminology. The research methodology comprised the selection of news items, preparation of an information letter and consent form, survey development, participant selection, survey administration, as well as qualitative and quantitative data analysis and comparative descriptive analysis of the results. The analysis revealed significant differences in the linguistic and statistical profiles of news reports in Kazakh, Russian, and English. In American jurisprudence, prosecutors and defense lawyers purposefully manage intonation to hold the audience's attention and create a dramatic effect. Speech strategies such as lengthening words, emphasizing sound signals, and using pauses are used to create a tense atmosphere. In Kazakh courtroom discourse, however, intonation fluctuations are more often conditioned by the speakers' emotional state. Moreover, the Kazakh language segment showed a high concentration of specialized terminology, predominantly legal concepts, while a wider thematic spectrum characterizes the Russian news segment. This indicates the anthropocentric nature of information

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presentation. The American news segment exhibits maximum polysemy and interdisciplinary terminology, reflecting an integrated approach to reporting events with a focus on factual accuracy in a global context.

Keywords: Courtroom Discourse; Perception Analysis; Prosodic Analysis; Legal Terminology; Prosodic Features

1. Introduction

Media coverage of public trials through news programs, articles, and analytical programs affords viewers to follow court cases and form opinions about justice. However, media portrayals of crime often distort public perception. Studies^[1-3] show that intense coverage of crime can create a false sense of rising crime rates, even when official statistics indicate otherwise. Consequently, this “accumulative agenda effect”^[3] amplifies public anxiety and influences policy support for stricter criminal justice measures^[1,2].

Court transparency through media coverage enables the public to observe the proceedings, thereby strengthening trust in the legal system. The broadcast of a criminal case in the media on the eve of sentencing results in an increase in sentences in jury trials as indicated Philippe & Ouss^[4]. The results demonstrate that broadcasting criminal cases before sentencing has been linked to longer jury sentences, suggesting that media-induced public pressure affects juror decisions^[4]. Notably, professional judges appear less susceptible to this influence^[4].

Moreover, the data analysis of Simmons^[5] indicates that news viewing fosters heightened punishment preferences among white viewers, particularly those residing in neighborhoods with low crime rates. The severity of punishment is influenced by the audience’s political beliefs, as evidenced by research on other forms of media, including cable television, radio, print media, and the Internet.

The research of Allen & Whitt^[6] revealed that approximately 42.67% of the respondents identified as regular viewers of crime shows, with a further 42.83% expressing the sentiment that local media outlets allocated disproportionate attention to violent crimes. Thus, crime show viewership correlates with a heightened fear of victimization.

The dramatic changes in public perception caused by the spread and proliferation of online narratives of sexual violence may hurt trust in legal institutions as noted by Nagy^[7], as social media enables alternative platforms for public shaming outside formal justice systems. Social media platforms

empower individuals to bypass conventional legal institutions, showing public distrust in the justice system. Online resources shape public beliefs, which can weaken them in the legal system. Media outlets design content, tailoring them to align with the preferences of the broader user base. Research shows media powerfully affects how people perceive real-life events. Consequently, media and viewers interact in complex ways where emotions, beliefs, and judgments play key roles, in reporting court cases.

Garoupa & Magalhães^[8] examined three primary issues related to the autonomy of the judiciary and its contribution to enhancing public confidence in the judicial system. These issues include:

- the role of judicial accountability in strengthening public trust;
- sensitivity of more informed citizens to such changes;
- limited representations by systems with a high level of judicial independence.

Despite the prevalence of online discourse surrounding issues of trust and mistrust in the court case under consideration, Xu & Liu^[9] contend that the court hearings facilitate a more accurate assessment of the judge’s positive interpersonal demeanor towards the participants in the judicial process.

The research conducted in this study confirms the close relationship between media interpretation and public perception of justice, shaping both positive and negative reactions. Mass media increases legal awareness within society. This heightened awareness can also lead to an escalation in citizen anxiety levels.

Thus, we specifically examine how prosodic features in Kazakh, Russian, and English news reports affect, identifying responses to the following research questions:

1. How do prosodic features (intonation, tempo, pauses, stress) influence the perception of a news message by listeners?
2. What words did the participants remember, and to what extent are these words related to legal terminology?

3. What differences are observed between the three fragments in the use of words, and how does the influence of a second or third language affect the participants' understanding and recall of legal terminology?
4. Are there any significant differences in the perception of news in Kazakh, Russian, and English in terms of intonation and emotional expressiveness?
5. What stylistic features of news presentation are typical for Kazakhstani and American media?

In consideration of the points outlined above, the study aims to examine the influence of prosodic features of television news reports, including intonation, stress, and speech rate, on the audience's perception, memorization, and interpretation of legal terminology in Kazakh, Russian, and English media contexts.

2. Materials and Methods

The research methodology consisted of the following stages: selection of news items, preparation of an information letter and consent form, survey construction, participant selection, survey administration, as well as qualitative and quantitative data analysis and comparative descriptive analysis of the results.

The survey was conducted within a university setting. The survey included a variety of questions to examine participants' perceptions of prosodic features in news reports. These materials were chosen based on the following criteria: (1) similar content focus (courtroom reporting), (2) comparable tone and emotional intensity, and (3) duration of approximately one to two minutes to uniform exposure time. Three short news fragments (Kazakh, Russian, and English) were selected from YouTube to ensure content uniformity (See **Appendix A** for URLs).

The survey was administered to a total of 159 participants, comprising 119 female and 40 male respondents. Participant selection was based on their proficiency in three languages. The participants' ages ranged from 18 to 30 years ($M = 18.04$); three participants did not disclose their age. The majority of the participants were students of linguistics or related fields. All participants reported being proficient in both Kazakh and Russian and utilizing them in their daily lives. The influence of English varied depending on the academic focus. Given the prosodic and phonological systems

differences between the Kazakh and Russian languages, all participants had been exposed to both languages from an early age. Thus, differences in language dominance did not pose a significant challenge for the study. Moreover, Russian is frequently regarded as the dominant language in specific contexts, as noted in recent research^[10]. All participants in the pilot study were asked to provide detailed information regarding their level of language competence. This information included their proficiency in Kazakh, Russian, and English.

The survey was conducted by ethical principles to protect the rights of the participants. Before the launch of the survey, informed consent was obtained from the students. The survey results and related data are securely stored and access to them was limited to the researchers. Furthermore, the report and associated publications do not disclose the personal information of the participants.

Each news fragment was followed by 7 item-specific and 5 comparative questions, including both closed- and open-ended formats. The survey comprised a total of 30 questions and was administered via Google Forms during supervised classroom sessions. The study employed objective and subjective criteria to evaluate the prosodic features of news reports. The primary parameters encompassed prosodic features such as perceived emotional tones (e.g., neutral, anxious, etc.), pitch contours (e.g., rising, falling), speech rate, word stress, and the degree of emotional expressiveness. A quantitative assessment of speech expressiveness, along with participants' agreement regarding differences in news presentation across Kazakh, Russian (Kazakhstani), and American contexts, was conducted by five closed-scale questions (the Likert scale). Participants evaluated the degree of emotional expressiveness in speech, the efficacy of emotional tones in conveying the significance of events, and the memorability of specific phrases. The perception of the delivery style (e.g., formal, confidential, aggressive, etc.) was taken into account. The utilization of open-ended inquiries was instrumental in elucidating the participants' interpretations. This approach enabled the subjects to independently indicate particularly memorable phrases, the words that the journalist accentuated, and their subjective perceptions of the emotional tenor of the speech in each instance. Semi-open classification questions were designed to allow respondents to choose between categories, including the following types of emotional tones:

neutral, tense, anxious, solemn, and ironic. A comparative analysis was conducted to identify discrepancies in the manner of information presentation among Kazakh, Russian, and English-language news reports. Finally, evaluative statements were incorporated. This type of question has been instrumental in identifying cultural stereotypes regarding the speech style of journalists.

The average duration of the survey was approximately 20 minutes. Following the court show, participants were allotted sufficient time to engage in a more thorough critical analysis of their answers. The entire process was structured to encourage thoughtful and attentive participation from respondents.

The data were meticulously transcribed, with particular attention devoted to phonological and prosodic features that have been demonstrated to exert influence on the process of word recollection. The phonetic and conversational elements were analyzed using PRAAT and the authors' (G.T. & L.T.) developed ProAG -2025 program. Transcriptions were additionally coded for prosodic features: stress, emotional tones, intonation patterns, pitch contours, emotional expressiveness, and rhythm.

Final qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed using a combination of descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Categorical variables such as perceived emotional tones, the frequency of legal and non-legal terminology, and lexical density among recalled terms were analyzed using the Chi-square test of independence (χ^2). A significant level of $\alpha = 0.05$ was applied. The selection of this approach was predicated on the categorical nature of the variables under investigation, including prosodic perception categories and word type classifications. The statistical procedures were executed using Microsoft Excel and manual calculations.

3. Results and Discussion

The presented data reflect the distribution of prosodic features in news reports in Kazakh, Russian, and English. The quantitative analysis was conducted based on the following five categories of emotional tones: neutral, tense, anxious, solemn, and ironic. Following the presentation of three segments from news sources in three languages (Kazakhstan and the USA), respondents were to select the tonality that best aligned with their perception. A statistically significant

predominance of the choice of neutral tone (66.5%—105 respondents) was recorded in the Kazakh segment, which may correspond to the official business style characteristic of state media in Kazakhstan. However, this assumption overlooks the results in the Russian-speaking segment (Kazakhstan), where a neutral tone is expressed less emphatically (36.1% of 57 respondents), and a tense tone is more prevalent (40.5% of 64 respondents). This finding aligns with the theory of conflict mediatization, thereby enhancing audience engagement. The American segment also demonstrates a similar dominant neutral tone (40.5%—64 respondents), with the anxious tone (14.6%—23 respondents) occurring more frequently than the Kazakh (9.5%—15 respondents) and Russian (13.3%—21 respondents) segments.

A significant difference was identified in the respondents' perceptions of the American news reports, where both the solemn tone (15.8%) and the ironic tone (9.5%) were higher than the other two segments. This difference may be indicative of the influence of the information presentation style.

A chi-square test of independence was conducted (using Excel) to ascertain whether the distribution of perceived emotional tones (neutral, tense, anxious, ironic, solemn) differed across the three language segments (Kazakh, Russian, and English). The statistical analysis yielded a chi-square statistic of $\chi^2(8) = 25.10$, with a corresponding p -value of 0.0015.

Given the statistical significance of $p < 0.01$, the result indicates that the variation in the perception of emotional tone is not due to chance. In other words, there was a significant difference in the perception of emotional expressiveness among participants depending on the language of the news segment. This finding suggests a significant relationship between language context and the perception of prosodic features, potentially influenced by cultural expectations, stylistic conventions in media delivery, or prosodic norms inherent in each language.

This finding supports the broader claim that prosodic features are interpreted similarly, and are shaped by linguistic and sociocultural factors. This finding aligns with extant research on the role of intonation in shaping media narratives and audience perception.

In the analysis of the second question, all recalled words were classified based on their legal or non-legal nature. Ac-

According to research by Glogar^[11], legal terminology is defined as the set of words and phrases that are specifically related to legal proceedings. Some examples include “bas bostandygynan ayryldy (confined/ detained)”, “postanovili (ordered)” and “federal violation”. In contrast, non-legal terminology includes other vocabulary that is not specific to

the legal field.

The respondents identified 23 words in the Kazakh language that were reiterated a total of 214 times (see **Figure 1**). Additionally, 50 words in Russian with a total repetition count of 247 (see **Figure 2**), and 40 words in English with a total repetition count of 285 (see **Figure 3**) in the study.



Figure 1. The Kazakh segment result.



Figure 2. The Russian segment result.

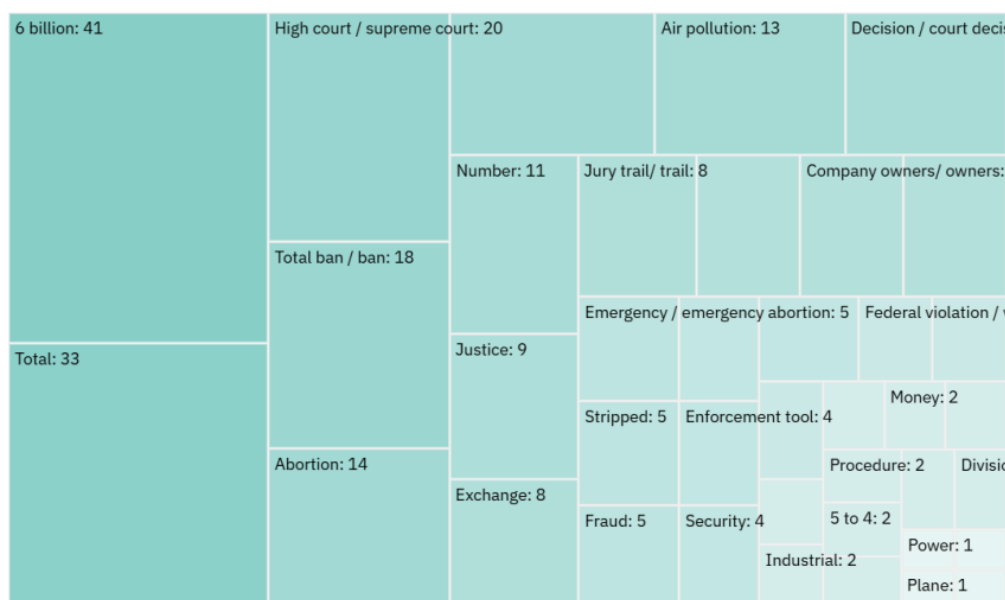


Figure 3. The English segment result.

The analysis conducted on the second question revealed significant differences in the linguistic and statistical profiles of news reports in Kazakh, Russian, and English. The 48-s segment in Kazakh exhibits a high concentration of specialized terminology, with 92% of lexical units relating to the description of the incident and its legal consequences. In this context, legal concepts such as “bas bostandygynan (confined)” (30 mentions), “sot (court)” (15), and “kylmystyk kod (criminal code)” (5) prevail, as well as factual terms — “parachute” (31), “aviation” (10), and “3 zhyl (3 years)” (13). The lexical structure presented hereinafter clearly indicates a focus on the formal-legal description of the event.

The 94-s segment in Russian presents a considerably more extensive array of subjects. The lexical analysis yielded three primary semantic clusters: geographical indicators, which received 27 mentions; personified elements, which received 8 mentions and included “mother and child” and “lawyer” with 9 mentions each; and procedural terms, which received 17 mentions and included “decided” and “appealed” with 5 mentions each. A salient feature of this version is the predominance (45%) of vocabulary related to interpersonal relations in a legal context, which indicates the anthropocentric nature of the information presentation.

The American news segment, lasting 61 s, is characterized by its extensive polysemy and the utilization of terminology from multiple disciplines. A close examination of the lexical composition reveals the presence of three primary thematic groups: environmental, legal, and economic. The

environmental group, which includes “air pollution” (13) and “environmental protection” (2), is particularly noteworthy. The legal group, which consists of “supreme court” (20) and “federal violation” (3), is also of interest. Finally, the economic group, featuring “6 billion” (41) and “exchange” (4), is a salient component of the lexical composition. A notable characteristic is the substantial proportion (38%) of interdisciplinary terms, which signifies a comprehensive approach to covering the event. A particularly noteworthy aspect is the high frequency of digital indicators, which are present at a rate of 7.3 per 100 words. This observation highlights the importance of maintaining factual accuracy within a global context.

To statistically assess whether the type of terminology recalled (legal or non-legal) differed significantly between the language segments, a Chi-square test of independence was conducted. The analysis yielded a Chi-square value of $\chi^2(1) = 3.42$ with a p -value of 0.065. The result did not reach the conventional level of statistical significance ($p > 0.05$), indicating that the observed variations in the proportion of legal or non-legal terminology recalled among the Kazakh, Russian, and English-speaking groups might be attributable to random fluctuations rather than to a systematic effect of language. However, the observed trend, particularly the elevated recall rate of legal terminology in the Kazakh segment, necessitates further investigation with a more substantial sample size or more rigorously controlled stimuli.

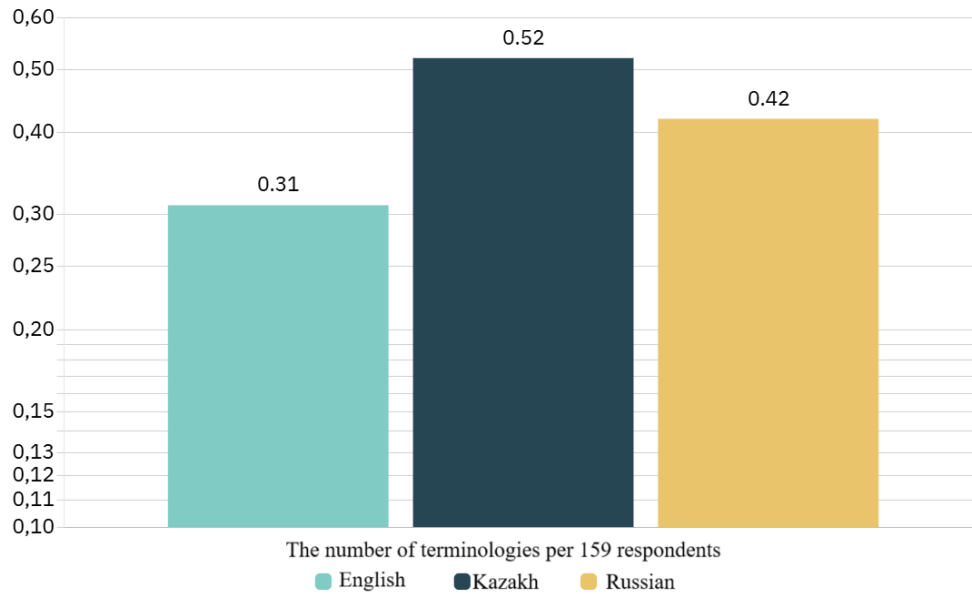


Figure 4. The analysis of the frequency of legal terms per 159 participants.

The semantic and stylistic analysis yielded insights into culturally contingent media delivery strategies. The results of the study indicate that the Kazakh segment employs a standard news style characterized by a focus on factual accuracy and normative specificity. This style is evident in the predominance of nouns in the nominative case, which account for 68.2% of the total, in contrast to 29.9% of the total that is comprised of verbs and 2% of the total that is comprised of adjectives. Additionally, the analysis reveals a relatively low

frequency of verbs, with an average of 29.9 per 100 words. Russian-language content is characterized by a tendency to personify information (34.8%—97/247) and an increased frequency of predicate verbs (45/100 words). The English version demonstrates a balanced approach, combining specialized terminology (22.8% of complex terms—65/285) with the accessibility of presentation, as observed by Smith and Higgins^[12], aligning with trends in global journalism (Figure 5).

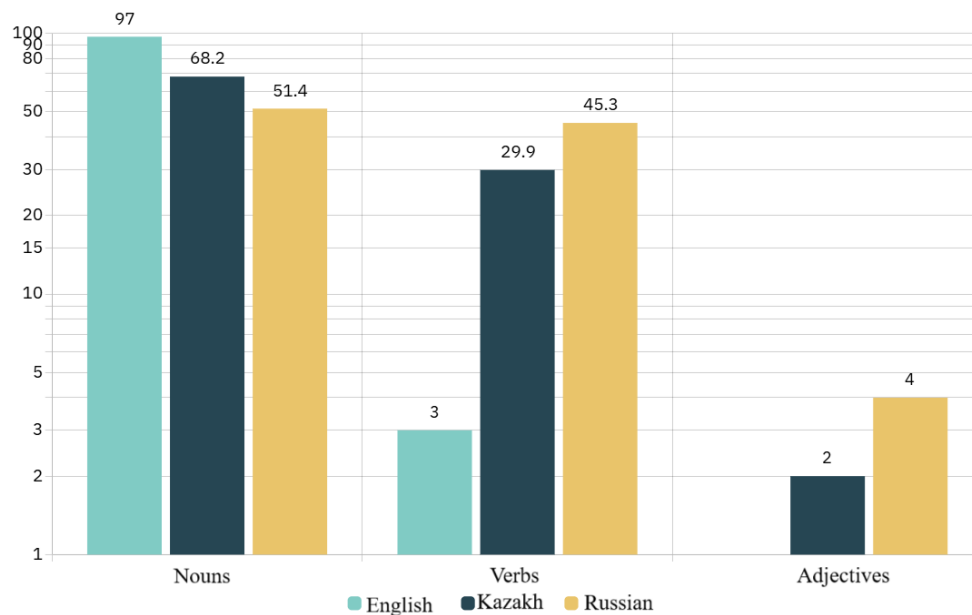


Figure 5. The semantic-stylistic analysis.

The objective of this study was to determine whether the observed differences in the distribution of lexical categories (nouns, verbs, adjectives) in the Kazakh, Russian, and English news segments were statistically significant. To this end, a chi-square test of independence was conducted. The statistical analysis yielded a value of $\chi^2(4) = 85.92$, with a corresponding p -value of < 0.000001 . This finding suggests a robust and significant relationship between language and word class usage, thereby indicating that the stylistic structures of news items exhibit variability across linguistic and cultural contexts. The Kazakh segment's emphasis on nominative nouns, the Russian segment's frequent use of predicate verbs, and the English segment's more balanced lexical distribution are indicative of culturally ingrained conventions of media communication.

This trend corroborates prior observations that formal prosodic features in legal discourse, particularly in the Russian language format, enhances memorability, thereby facilitating their memorization, confirmed in a recent review^[13–15]. The findings obtained are consistent with the conclusions drawn by Luchkina & Ionin^[15]. These researchers have demonstrated that prosodic features - intensity, duration, and pitch range - vary according to structural factors, including word order, as well as referent-based factors like animacy

and information status within Russian speech. Such prosodic features likely contribute to the increased salience and memorability of certain terms in legal discourse. Additionally, Luchkina & Ionin have demonstrated that prosody can disambiguate the interpretation of the scope in double quantifier clauses in Russian. In the context of legal discourse, this phenomenon signifies that prosodic features serve a dual purpose: they facilitate the clarification of meaning and concurrently enhance the retention of nuanced legal terminology, thereby augmenting their salience in formal speech. When considered collectively, these studies underscore the pivotal role of prosody in strengthening the visibility and memorability of salient terms within the context of Russian legal discourse.

To further analyze the participants' intonation, phrases that were most frequently reiterated were selected. It was hypothesized that analyzing such phrases would enable the identification of content elements that would have the greatest impact on viewers and evoke associations with prosodic features.

For instance, during the analysis of the Kazakh fragment, an accentuation of the surnames of the defendants was revealed, as well as an accentuation of words such as “durys teksermegendigi (improperly inspected)” (see **Figure 6**).

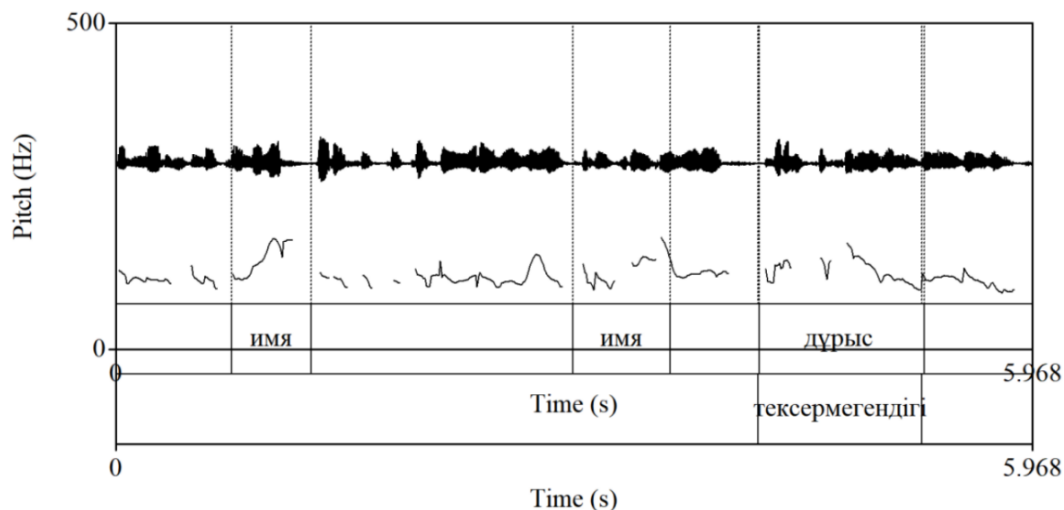


Figure 6. The phrases with hesitation and a pitch contour (improperly inspected).

As illustrated in **Figure 6**, the upper spectrogram displays a pitch increase on the words “the participants’ surnames” (surnames/ names were omitted) and the verb “durys teksermegendigi(improperly inspected)”. The initial segment of

the phrase exhibits a relatively flat pitch (plateau) and moderate amplitude, which, in our estimation, suggests a neutral or calm tone. However, from “surname” onward, there are more changes in tone, as the emphasis on the phrase regard-

ing the negligence of the employees. The study referenced in^[16] suggests that the pitch contour on “surname” might serve to *enhance the dramatic effect* of the statement.

A general observation of the Kazakh fragment reveals that it possesses a smooth quality. The tone pitch contour demonstrates natural fluctuations, exhibiting observable rises and falls. The journalist’s discourse is characterized by the use of terminological units consistent with courtroom dis-

course, demonstrating a lack of sudden transitions or abrupt changes. It is noteworthy that certain moments in the recording sounded longer than others. As in **Figure 7**, the speaker’s tone exhibited a higher pitch, characterized by a dynamic upward movement. As noted in a research article^[17], this observation indicates a concentration of information attention, emphasizing detail and a strict focus on judicial and procedural aspects previously established.

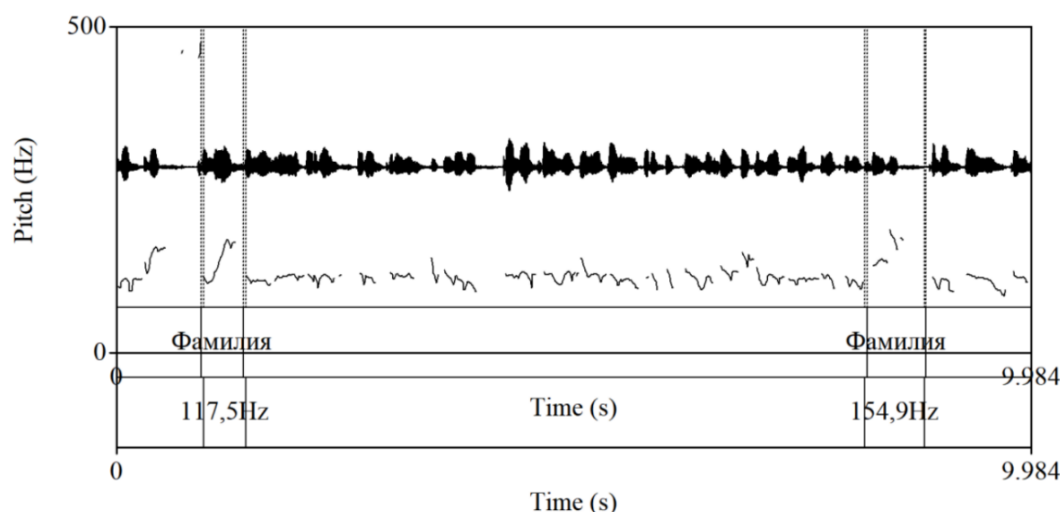


Figure 7. The fluctuation in tone when pronouncing the names of the defendants.

The fragment in Russian features clear wave oscillations with high and low tones. For instance, respondents most frequently cited the phrases “Almaty court,” “Almaty city court,” and “court.” To identify prosodic features, an acoustic analysis was conducted.

As illustrated in **Figure 8**, the Russian segment contains a fragment of the text (Almaty City court decided three-year-old child). As demonstrated by the spectrogram, the statement evinces an emotional intensity, marked by a sigh from the journalist and a pronounced pitch contour during the presentation of the case. Additionally, pitch rise is evident in the phrase “Almaty,” accompanied by a notable rise in amplitude surrounding the phrase “city court”. Subsequently, a transition to H (High Pitch) occurs, exemplified by the verb “decided,” which mirrors the pitch contour, accentuating the moment with a heightened emphasis on this verb. As Phelan notes in research^[18], the falling pitch contour in

the final phrase, “a three-year-old boy,” is characteristic of a complete narrative statement^[18]. Brède’s study^[19] shows that such pitch contours are typical of the formal style of news delivery, where the topic, theme, and logical completeness of the message are meticulously structured. According to Shkvorchenko et al.^[20], journalists enhance the memorability of exceptional moments through the implementation of prosodic alterations - an augmentation in pitch during specific phrases.

The analyzed English fragment showed a high degree of similarity to the Kazakh results, where the correspondent’s speech demonstrated enhanced fluency, despite instances of elevated pitch contour on specific words. For example, as illustrated in **Figure 9**, the correspondent prolonged the pronunciation of the word “total,” a technique similarly observed in the phrases “a draft” (**Figure 10**) and “6 billion dollars” (**Figure 11**).

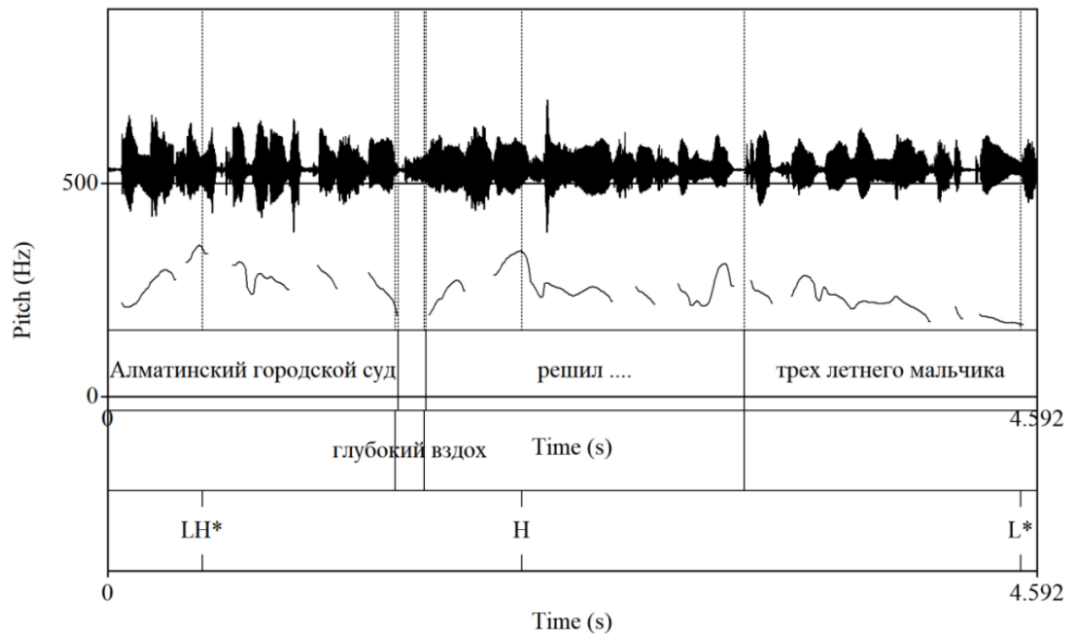


Figure 8. The most frequently mentioned phrases are “Almaty City Court” and “three-year-old boy”.

As illustrated in **Figure 9**, the tonal distribution across the phrase is characterized by a uniformity in intensity. This tone suggests a composed delivery, devoid of emotional inflection. A stable tone signifies that the speech is articulated methodically. Despite the restrained intonation, the correspondent articulated the phrase “a total ban” for a greater

duration than the remainder of the speech. According to research by Reed^[21], the physical lengthening of sounds and syllables possesses an iconic force that is more directly expressive than a purely verbal description of approval and appreciation. This suggests that the speaker intentionally prolonged the pronunciation of the phrase.

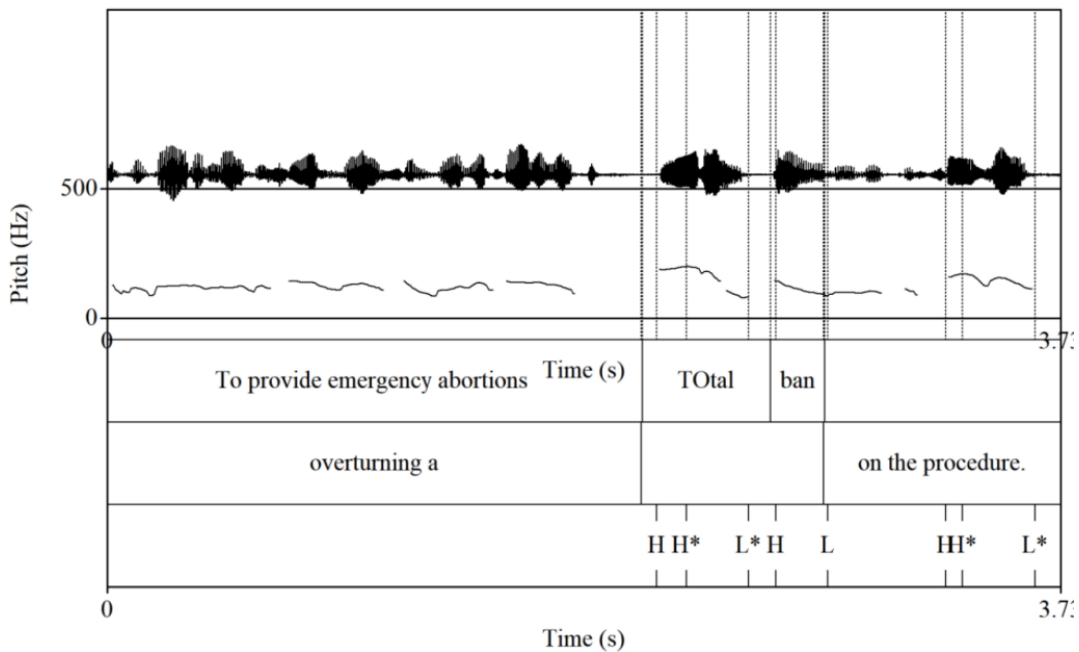


Figure 9. The extension of the phrase “total”.

It is hypothesized that the phrase was perceived by listeners as moderately emotionally expressive, given its articulation in a moderately elevated tone with an extension. This hypothesis is supported by the responses of 33 respondents.

As illustrated in **Figure 10**, the spectrogram displays pitch contours characterized by an initial low-frequency component followed by a sharp ascending transition. The phrase

as a whole possesses a modulated wave-like prosodic structure, with the maximum frequency energy localized in the segment corresponding to the lexeme “draft.” This segment is marked as prosodically accented. Research^[22] has shown that a precipitous decline following an ascent in pitch contour may signify the speaker’s intent to accentuate the phrase, thereby underscoring the profound significance of verbal communication and its potential emotional expressiveness.

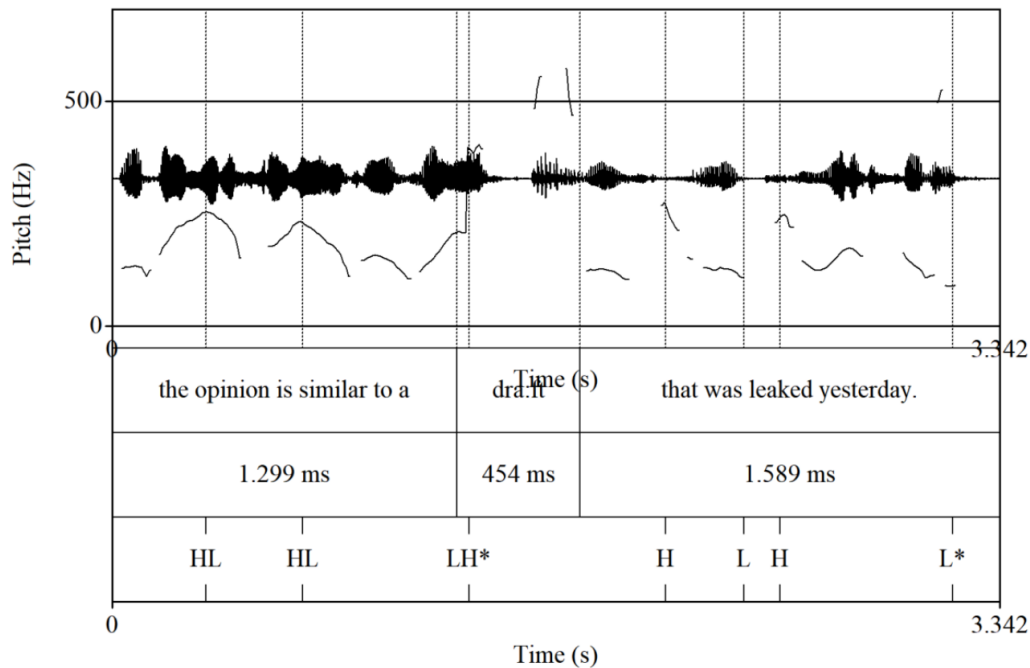


Figure 10. Doubling the tone in the pronunciation of the word “a draft”.

Figure 11 shows that the spectrogram displays clear prosodic features in the numerical part, reflected by several acoustic characteristics. Temporal analysis revealed a significant increase in the duration of the numerical segment ‘6 billion dollars’ compared to neighboring lexical units. The deceleration (a reduction in speed) in the articulatory tempo may have functioned as an additional indicator of semantic accentuation. Concurrently, an increase in energy density is observed at this position. Acoustic analysis indicates that pitch contours serves a function in temporal marking, thereby elucidating the significance of the designated temporal parameter within the semantic structure of the utterance.

The general intonation-phonetic organization of speech segments aligns with the established prosodic model of informative statements. Variation in frequency parameters serves a structuring function, ensuring the allocation of semantically

relevant elements through:

- 1) change of pitch contour,
- 2) intensity modulation,
- 3) temporal accentuation.

These prosodic features align with the theory of communicative hierarchy (Gussenhoven^[23]), which posits that pitch contour indicates the focus of informational novelty. In the context of courtroom discourse, the performance of such prosodic features may be achieved through the following means:

- temporal marking,
- accentuation of procedural details,
- differentiation of semantic dominants.

The results of Paulmann & Pell^[24] are relevant to the

present study, as they emphasize the role of prosody in memory retrieval. The present study demonstrated that both prosodic and semantic contexts were capable of predicting

subsequent emotional judgments. These findings were consistent with participants' memories of contextually inferred phrases, but not directly uttered in court cases.

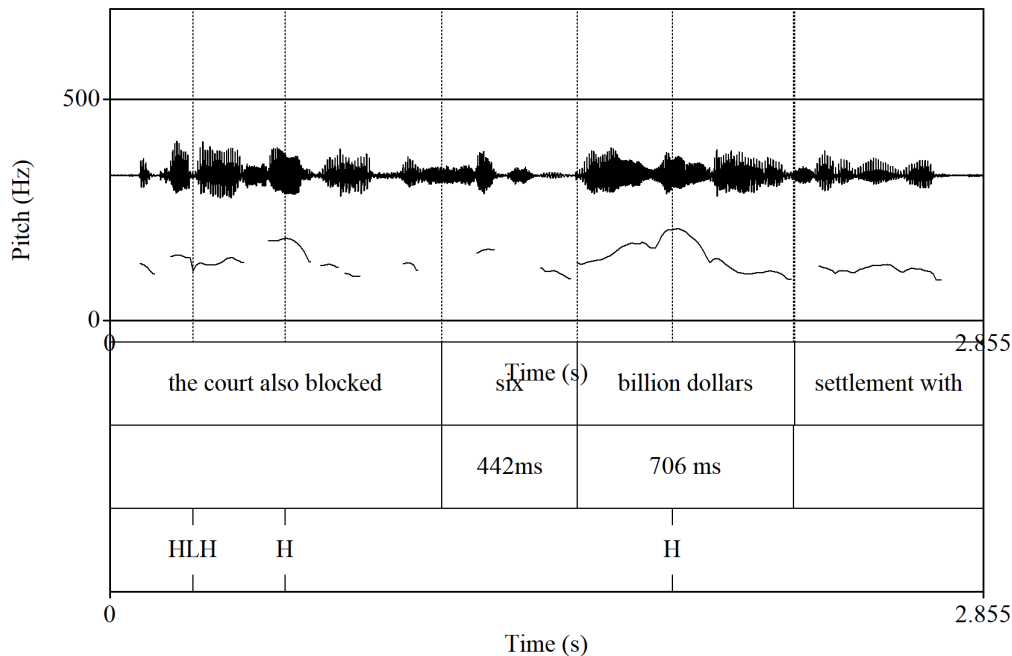


Figure 11. The emphasis on numbers.

Furthermore, the analysis revealed significant differences in the prosodic features of the language segments under study (**Figure 12**). The respondents indicated that the English segment demonstrated the greatest intonation variability (59.1%) and emotional expressiveness (32.7%), which is consistent with the known features of expressive English-language communication. The Russian segment, as illustrated in the diagram, occupies an intermediate position in most parameters, maintaining high rates of rising pitch (62.9%) with moderate values of intonation variability (49.1%) and emotional expressiveness (21.4%). The segment in the Kazakh language is characterized by a specific prosodic structure with minimal emotional expressiveness (5%), a high speech rate (57.2%), and a pronounced tendency to lower pitch (22.6%), which may reflect the peculiarities of the prosodic system of Turkic languages or even cultural differences of Kazakh people, requiring to express emotions less than it is expected. It is noteworthy that the parameter of word stress remains stable in all three segments (approximately 49.7%), thereby confirming the universal nature of this prosodic phenomenon.

In summary, despite the infrequency of the phenomenon under investigation, the occurrence of words may serve to underscore the potential impact of distinctive prosodic features of these words. The subsequent four inquiries were derived from the perception of the news after viewing. The respondents' answers exhibited variability, with the Kazakh style of narration being perceived as neutral, English as formal, and Russian as anxious and dynamic.

Subsequently, a series of general inquiries were posed to all three segments, encompassing the following five questions (accessible via the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFqlfbOmAzI85kk3wD6k-npvT4PIBYEN2I3x8sRjpdYTDbg/viewform?usp=preview>). The present study seeks to examine the potential role of intonation in facilitating comprehension of the significance of an event.

1. To what extent do you deem how a journalist speaks to be more significant than the content of their discourse?
2. What aspects of the experience do you recall with the greatest clarity?

3. Please indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements by assigning a value on a scale of one to five, with one representing a strong disagreement and five representing a strong agreement.
4. What differences were observed between Kazakh and Russian/Russian and English/English and Kazakh? (The question has been raised as to whether a distinction exists between those three languages).

The results of the first question on general issues

(92.5% of 159 respondents agreed) demonstrate not only the subjective perception of intonation as a marker of significance but also reflect a fundamental psycholinguistic principle: prosodic features of speech perform a cognitive-communicative function, acting as an interface between emotional perception and semantic interpretation. This finding suggests that pitch contours - rising/falling pitch, intonation - changes in rhythm, lengthening, and pauses, may serve as a universal paralinguistic code that the brain decodes more rapidly than lexical content (**Figure 13**).

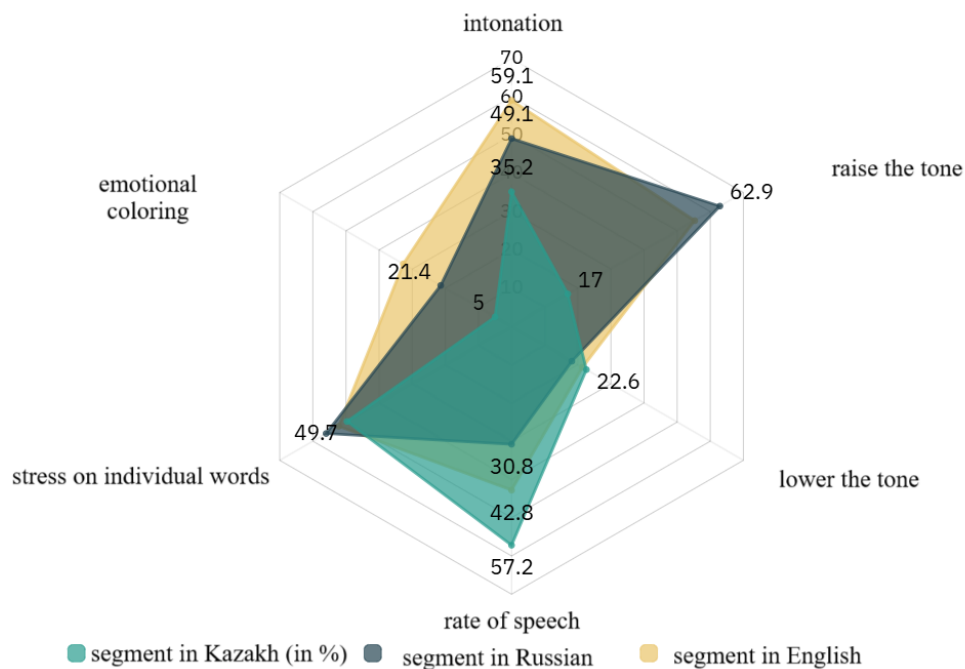


Figure 12. The results of the third question “What prosodic features did you notice in this fragment?”

ОБЩИЙ ВОПРОС 1: ИНТОНАЦИЯ ПОМОГАЕТ ПОНЯТЬ ВАЖНОСТЬ СОБЫТИЯ?

159 ОТВЕТОВ

General Question 1: Does intonation help to understand the importance of an event?

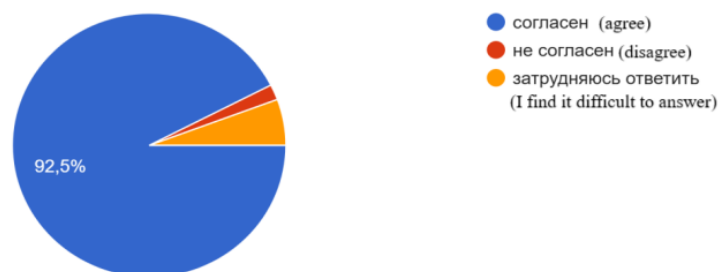


Figure 13. How important do respondents consider pitch movement variability to be?

It is evident that disregarding the pitch movement design of speech results in the loss of the primary conduit for conveying meaning. This finding substantiates the accuracy of the response to the third inquiry, revealing a statistically significant trend in the perception of speech messages. The

study results indicate that 67.3% of respondents acknowledge the predominant role of prosodic features (tone, intonation, and accentuation) in the memorization process, whereas only 27.7% highlight the importance of verbal content (see **Figure 14**).

ОБЩИЙ ВОПРОС 3 : Что вам больше запомнилось?
159 ответов (General question: What do you remember most?)

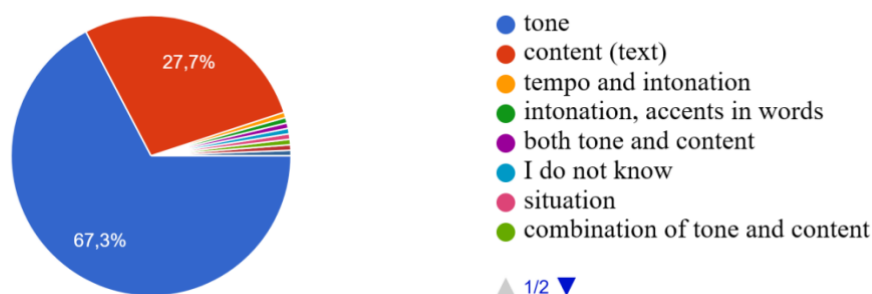


Figure 14. Pragmatic effect of the message through the prism of prosodic features.

The results of the study provide empirical evidence that supports the hypothesis regarding the critical role of the emotional tone as a semiotic resource that performs a framing function. As demonstrated in the study^[25], this framing function structures the flow of information through acoustic markers of significance^[25].

Notably, the study reveals clear emotional tones in the perception of emotional expressiveness in news reports across different languages in the free answers. The comments consistently demonstrate a contrast between the “monotonous,” “formal,” and “restrained” Kazakh (mentioned 47, 39, and 28 times, respectively) and the “emotional” and “anxious” English (mentioned 58 and 19 times). Meanwhile, the Russian segment occupies an intermediate position, characterized as “aggressive” and “tense” (mentioned 32 and 25 times, respectively). This distribution of assessments establishes a clear hierarchy of emotional expressiveness, wherein the English version is perceived as the most lively and dynamic, the Kazakh version as neutral and restrained, and the Russian version as moderately emotional, albeit with a touch of formality. This phenomenon is further exemplified by the responses of a single participant, who articulated their perspective as follows: The segment in question features an interview with a lawyer and a legal consultant in Russian news, positioned between the Kazakh

and Russian portions. The English news report demonstrated the greatest degree of emotional expressiveness. The Kazakh news report is characterized by its neutral intonation pattern and the absence of substantial intonation changes.

Accordingly, the following section outlines the main conclusions of this study.

Research Question 1: The influence of prosodic features (e.g., intonation, tempo, pauses, stress) on listeners’ perception of news messages is examined. The results of the analysis indicated that the vast majority of words were characterized by prosodic features, such as high pitch, fluctuating tone, pauses, and stress, with a few exceptions including plateau pitch and high intensity. Emotional tones also played an important role. The memorability may have been facilitated by a variety of factors, including rising pitch, dramatic pauses, sighs, the prolongation of numbers, and emotional expressiveness.

Research Question 2: For what words did the participants exhibit a memory, and to what extent were these words related to legal terminology? The present study found that respondents demonstrated an enhanced ability to recall words that were repeated, emotionally expressive, and marked by distinctive prosodic features. A close examination of three news items concerning court decisions revealed a divergence in the perception of terminology across legal and non-legal

contexts. The initial speech of the correspondents influenced the perception and memorization processes, resulting in the prevalence of Kazakh specialized terminology. In contrast, Russian was characterized by a diverse array of thematic features, encompassing geographical, personalized, and procedural elements. Notably, the American segment stands out for its extensive polysemy and interdisciplinary terminology.

Research Question 3: What differences are observed between the three fragments in the use of words, and how does the influence of a second or third language affect the participants' comprehension and recall of legal terminology? The primary distinction among the three fragments pertains to the frequency and types of legal terms that participants recalled. The respondents demonstrated a higher level of proficiency in recalling legal terminology from the Kazakh segment compared to the Russian or English segments. The initial fragment in Kazakh exhibited a more formal narrative style. The second fragment in Russian demonstrated emotional richness, relying on emotionally variable presentation. The third fragment in English was characterized as formal, but it was found to be more replete with prosodic features.

Research Question 4: The objective of this study is to determine whether there are significant differences in the perception of news in Kazakh, Russian, and English in terms of emotional tone and expressiveness. The findings, based on the respondents' answers, revealed statistically significant differences in the perception of emotional tones across the three languages. News in Kazakh was characterized by a neutral and restrained narrative style, often perceived as monotonous in expression. The Russian segment exhibited moderate expressiveness, marked by phrases conveying 'tense' and 'aggressive' connotations. The American segment was regarded as the most emotional and expressive. The veracity of these findings is substantiated by the quantitative and qualitative feedback provided by the respondents.

Research Question 5: What stylistic features of news presentation are characteristic of Kazakhstani and American media? An analysis of the mass media from Kazakhstan reveals a divergence in portrayals across languages. The Kazakh and Russian segments are characterized by disparate descriptions, such as "cold," "neutral," and "flat," while the American style is described as "friendly" and "persuasive."

The findings of this study demonstrate that prosody has a substantial influence on word recall, manifesting notable

differences among the three fragments in terms of the legal terminology. An analysis of the prosodic features of memorable words demonstrated that pitch contours, particularly sharp rises and falls, had a profound impact on how phrases were remembered. The enhanced emotional expressiveness of these phrases has been demonstrated to facilitate their memorability, a phenomenon attributable to the presence of prosodic features.

The findings provide compelling evidence that prosody plays a pivotal role in shaping listeners' engagement with legal discourse and media content. The interaction between emotional tones, prosodic features, and show context has been demonstrated to enhance the recall of certain legal and non-legal terms. This, in turn, has been shown to influence audience perceptions of the legal system presented in court shows.

4. Conclusions

An analysis of the functional and prosodic features of the courtroom discourse space in the mass media of the USA and Kazakhstan revealed notable similarities and differences between the two. The study revealed that prosodic features have a substantial impact on the memorization of words in the context of court speech. The analysis revealed significant differences in the linguistic and statistical profiles of news reports in Kazakh, Russian, and English. The segment in Kazakh exhibits a high concentration of specialized terminology, with a predominance of legal concepts, suggesting a deliberate emphasis on the formal and legal description of the event. The Russian news segment is distinguished by a considerably broader thematic scope, with a marked prevalence of terminology about interpersonal dynamics within the legal framework. This observation signifies an inherent anthropocentric tendency in the presentation of information. The American news segment is distinguished by its maximum polysemy and interdisciplinary terminology, which reflects a comprehensive approach to covering the event with a focus on factual accuracy in a global context.

Changes in pitch, intonation, and pauses were found to be particularly significant in enhancing the efficacy of memorization. The frequency of emotionally charged words has been demonstrated to exert a direct influence on the affective component of prosody. Furthermore, both prosodic and se-

mantic contexts cannot only augment the emotional response to auditory stimuli but also impede subsequent emotional assessments. The latter correlates with participants' memories of phrases inferred from the context but not spoken. This finding suggests that respondents may interpret the meaning of verbal exchanges based on intonation and context, which in turn affects their subjective perception of events.

News channels may employ a balancing strategy by selecting the courtroom episodes that highlight key aspects of the case. The strategic inclusion of emotionally charged moments serves as a deliberate component of news coverage, potentially aimed at enhancing viewer perception and engagement. Consequently, the emotional tenor of court cases in news media is employed to cultivate a distinct atmosphere. Therefore, courtroom discourse in the context of mass media functions not only as a tool of legal communication but also as a significant resource that shapes public opinion and interpretation of legal norms.

The present study has shown that analyzing the prosodic features of courtroom discourse in mass media enabled the identification of both shared characteristics and significant differences between the media landscapes of the United States and Kazakhstan. A comparative analysis of these two legal systems in mass media reveals notable parallels in their structural components, including legal terminology, discursive markers, and procedural norms. The manifestation of these differences can be observed in various aspects, including prosodic features, the forms of interaction between participants, and the emotional expressiveness of statements. These differences can be attributed primarily to the cultural, linguistic, and institutional characteristics inherent to each nation.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, G.K. and L.K.; methodology, G.K.; software, L.K.; validation, G.K., L.K. and G.B.; formal analysis, G.K. and L.K.; investigation, G.K. and L.K.; resources, G.K. and L.K.; data curation, G.K., L.K. and G.B.; writing—original draft preparation, G.K. and L.K.; writing—review and editing, G.K. and L.K.; visualization, L.K.; supervision, L.K. and G.B.; project administration, G.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Data Availability Statement

The specific sources of data are available upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendix A

The video fragments employed in this study were obtained from the following three sources:

The following link contains the Kazakh segment of the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=553jmN7DFtA>. The relevant segment begins at the 0:48 mark.

The following link contains the Russian-language version of the video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17YVHXEsX1o\(1:34\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17YVHXEsX1o(1:34)).

The video can be accessed via the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8Etb_vdgc\(1:01\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8Etb_vdgc(1:01)).

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