

SOME PROSODIC CHARACTERISTICS OF BULGARIAN ENGLISH

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Abstract: *The prosody of English is a well-known area of difficulty even for fairly advanced Bulgarian learners of the language. However, no systematic research has yet been carried out into the prosodic problems which they encounter. The present paper attempts to make a first step towards filling this gap by presenting some preliminary results from a contrastive investigation of the stress, rhythm and intonation patterns used by tertiary-level Bulgarian students of English. Six students read and recorded the Bulgarian and the English versions of Aesop's fable The North Wind and the Sun – a standard text used in phonetic research. Their readings were analysed acoustically and labelled intonationally in Praat using ToBI. The pitch accents, phrase accents, intonation phrase boundaries, the tempo and the duration of the pauses in the English and the Bulgarian recording of each student were compared with readings of the fable by native English speakers in order to determine which aspects of the Bulgarian students' English stress, rhythm and intonation are most heavily influenced by the prosodic system of their mother tongue.*