

Initial and final syllables in tatar: From phonotactics to morphology

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Abstract

The paper proposes a methodology for analyzing the syllabic structure of Tatar words using fiction text data. Syllable construction rules are unique for each language as they are determined by the laws that govern its specific internal structure. However, the issue of the syllable finds a rather superficial description in Tatar grammars. Thus, possible correlations of the syllable structure with morphological features of the language will be examined in this paper. We analyze the distribution of syllable types in Tatar texts and represent their ranked frequencies and theoretical values fitted by means of the Zipf-Mandelbrot distribution. The main part of the study is devoted to inquiry into the structure of initial and final syllables. We proceed from the hypothesis that distributions of syllable structures in word-initial and word-final positions should be marked by statistically important differences due to discriminative structural features of stems and affixal chains. The study is based on a selection of obstruent and sonorant consonants. To evaluate statistical significance of these differences, the well-known χ^2 test is applied.

Keywords

Phonotactics and morphology, Quantitative linguistics, Syllable, Syllable structure, The Tatar language

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