Forming the habits of logical accentuation competence in teacher-of-English trainees

Forming intonation habits as part of logical accentuation competence (LAC) in teacher-of-English trainees presupposes formation of the intonation habits of two kinds – the habits of reproducing the intonation contour of the utterance with various position of the communicative centre in it; and the accentuation habits of reproducing the functional types of logical stress – normal, intensity and contrastive.

As habits they are to possess such essential characteristics as automaticity, firmness, flexibility, consciousness, and relative complexity. Being intonation habits they must be marked by situation and by the speaker’s communicative task. These peculiar features of this type of habits predetermine the communicative approach to their formation. It means that at all the stages of habit formation the exercises suggested should be contextually stipulated. Even on the elementary level of LAC habit formation the smallest educational unit must be rather a dialogue or monologue unit and microtext than an utterance / sentence.

While forming LAC habits students ought to go through a complex of exercises consisting of four groups – perceptive, perceptive-reproductive of the first level, perceptive-reproductive of the second level and reproductive-productive.

Perceptive exercises in acceptance and awareness, recognition, differentiation, and identification are aimed at forming listening comprehension LAC habits.

Perceptive-reproductive exercises of the first level are those in imitation, substitution and transformation. Perceptive-reproductive exercises of the second level help students practice in extension, combination and replacement. Doing the exercises of these two groups students form the LAC habits proper.

Receptive-productive exercises in completion, actions based on the analogy, assembling a whole of parts, and taking a decision complete the LAC habit formation process thus developing all the mentioned above features.