

**Abstract**  
Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper  
(Master Degree)

**Title:** Stylistic determination of rhythm group temporal structure in English business discourse

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**Topical importance:** Though many aspects of rhythm have been investigated, there are still a lot of features that are unknown which hinders its systematic description.

One of the latest achievements in the field is phonostylistics. It is in this direction that the study in question is undertaken.

**Goals:** The main goal of the research is to reveal the prosodic behavior of the rhythm group in different speech environments, particularly in phonostylistic ones on the basis of English business discourse.

**Tasks:** To analyze the past work in the field, to experimentally study the role of extralinguistic factors, to determine modifications of rhythm groups in different styles of speech.

**Theoretical value and practical application:** The research contributes to the study of rhythmic organization of speech in different phonostylistic environments. It gives experimentally based data on how functional intentions of the speaker influence his rhythm on various levels.

Theoretical observations worked out in the paper can be applied in the studies of other phonostylistic types of English discourse.

**Results:** The research showed that the main rhythmic unit of speech is not the rhythm group as such, but a rhythm phrase forming a sense group. The final rhythm group in the latter is characterized by a longer duration. Pauses play a very important role in the differentiation of stylistic types of texts.

Despite the differences in the rhythmic organization of the texts it is possible to speak about the common basis of the organization for both spontaneously spoken utterances and those that are read aloud.

**Implementation advice:** The results of the research can be of some help to those participants of discourse who want to perfect their communication abilities.