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The monograph is concerned with various types of the organization of speech-chain, depending on its segmentation into units, intermediate between those of the first and the second segmentation (phonemes and morphemes, respectively), viz. syllables and syllable complexes, as well as quantitative relations and modes of accentuation typical of such units and complexes.

The study is based primarily on the material of the Germanic languages, analyzed in a historical and comparative perspective. In this context, the prosodic states analyzed can be arranged in a sequence reflecting one of the possible scenarios of Indo-European prosodic evolution.

The book includes *Introduction* devoted to fundamental problems of prosody vis-à-vis various points of view on certain prosodic issues and prosody generally, plus seven chapters (essays), five of which deal with prosody of different periods in the history of the Germanic languages: (a) *correlation of syllable cut* (West Germanic languages and Danish) and (b) *syllable-levelling* (Swedish and Norwegian), and their accentuation (word stress and Acc. I & II), (c) the rhythmic organization of the Old Germanic languages and, in this connection, two most important Indo-European sound laws (Verner's law and Sievers's law) and some of the specifically Germanic phenomena, viz. (d) *Fernassimilation*, or *assimilation at a distance* (breaking and umlaut) and (e) compensatory processes. In Chapter 6, *mora-counting* is discussed from the point of view of both traditional and modern approaches, as well as the notions relevant to it (quantity, syllable weight, vowels and consonants, etc.). In the recent decades, it has been customary to ascribe 'mora-counting', without sufficient grounds, to all languages with quantitative distinctions. Here, it has been argued that this notion is applicable only to the classical Indo-European prosody, typical of Greek and Latin, and, as it appears, the Old Germanic languages. The last essay, *Synchrony and Diachrony: Change and Variability*, treats the Germanic prosodic evolution, from Proto-Indo-European and Common Germanic to the present-day, as an overall process touching upon all the segments of the language system; it was triggered by morphological changes responsible for the shift of syllable boundaries. As a result, the *closed syllable* has become established as a most important typological characteristic of the Germanic languages.

The method based on the combination of morpheme and syllable segmentation, which proves the independent phonemic status of all the vowels, in the Germanic languages reveals the opposite: while long/'free' vowels are phonemes in their own right, short/'checked' vowels are inseparable from the following consonants. It follows that on the typological scale the Germanic languages occupy a position intermediate between purely phonemic and morphosyllabic languages.

The study does not adhere to any one linguistic school or trend, it relies on works by Russian and Western phonologists and phoneticians, both classical (Eduard Sievers, Daniel Jones, N.S. Trubetzkoy, John R. Firth, M.I. Steblin-Kamenskij, S.D. Katznelson, etc.) and more recent publications (Paul Gard, Anatoly Liberman, Jurij Kusmenko), analyzing the problems in question from different points of view.

The monograph is prefaced by an essay devoted to *Leningrad Phonological Seminar* organized in 1972 by A.S. Liberman, which continued the 1960s *Seminar on Diachronic Phonology* headed by M.I. Steblin-Kamenskij. A participant of the Seminar, the author presets it as a most important period in the history of St. Petersburg phonology, when the Russian linguistic traditions were being integrated with the world scholarship.