



## Language and Gender: Gender Differences in using Language

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses various issues on gender studies and analyzes the differences and changes between male and female speech.

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The first mention of the concept of gender in the language falls on the period antiquity, when the category was considered and analyzed grammatical gender. At that time, according to the symbolic-semantic hypothesis, it was believed that the grammatical gender originated in connection with the presence of people of different genders. At the same time, the names of the male genus, the meaning of activity and strength was attributed, the names of the female genders were endowed with the semantics of passivity, the fact that the category of gender can influence the perception of words and concepts.

The next stage in the study of the influence of gender on the language was the discovery by travelers of the primitive languages of America and Africa (XII-XIII centuries), which were divided into male and female options. Most often, female language was seen as a deviation, from the norm - the male language. Further research on gender factors in the language were based on the belief that all the differences between male and female languages are predetermined by biological gender. At the beginning of the XX century gender aspects of language and communication interested world-renowned linguists in linguistics (E.Sapir, O. Jespersen, F. Mautner), although at that time their works in this area

has not yet developed into an independent direction. The language began to be considered in connection with society and in it human; new directions in linguistics appeared -sociolinguistics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, discourse theory and communications.

In the late 60s of XX century began to develop intensively communicative semantics, sociolinguistics, scientists began gradually move away from a structuralist view of language, conduct research in a pragmatic framework and pay attention influence on the language of psycho-physiological and social characteristics personality (gender, age, educational level, etc.)

The history of this direction has about three decades. In 1970 Mary Rich Kay organized a University of California First Seminar on Language and floor, and then in 1975, based on the materials of this seminar, released a book called "Male / Female Language." Fundamental works on feminist language criticism were published in the same study by Robin Lakoff, The Language and Place of Women in English and Monographs ", Louise Push" German - the Language of Men " and SentyTremel-Pletz "Women's language" - the language of change, written on data obtained on the basis of the German language. On a special journal has been published in English since 1976 Women and language, where all the latest information on international and interdisciplinary research in the field feminist language criticism. Representatives of feminist linguistics see criticism of patriarchy consciousness in language and language reform aimed at eliminating the impairment representations of the image of a woman in language and sexist asymmetries, existing in language and speech[1, 75]. The theoretical basis for feminist language criticism served as basic concepts critical linguistics, and some views of W. Humboldt and his followers, as well as the famous Sapir-Whorf hypothesis or "Theory of linguistic relativity", partly derived from ideas the great German linguist.

Gender linguistics (linguistic genderology) is a scientific direction as part of interdisciplinary gender studies, using a linguistic conceptual apparatus that studies gender.

In the most general terms, the study of gender in linguistics deals with two problems:

1. Language and the reflection of gender in it. The purpose of this approach is to describe and explain how the presence of people of the same sex is manifested in the language (the nominative system, lexicon, syntax, gender category are primarily studied), which assessments are attributed to men and women, and in which semantic areas they are most noticeably expressed.
2. Speech and generally communicative behavior of men and women, where typical strategies and tactics are distinguished, gender-specific choice of lexicon units, ways to achieve success in communication, preferences in the choice of vocabulary, syntactic structures - that is, the specificity of male and female speaking.

When studying speech and, in general, communicative behavior, gender is considered as one of the parameters with the help of which the speaker's social identity is constructed in communication. As a rule, it interacts with other parameters: status, age, social group. One of the most famous works in this area was Deborah Tannen's work "You Just Don't Understand Me. Women and Men in Dialogue". The author analyzes communication failures in communication between persons of different sexes and explains them by different requirements imposed by society on men and women, as well as the specifics of socialization in childhood and adolescence, when communication occurs mainly in same-sex groups. Under the influence of these factors, men and women develop different motives of behavior, different strategies and tactics of communication. The verbal behavior of men, as a rule, is aimed at achieving and maintaining independence and high status. Society expects women to be non-contentious, compliant, and emotional. These differences lead, according to D. Tannen's concept, to differences in the purposes of communication and in the interpretation of statements. The same statements can be

interpreted in terms of status or in terms of maintaining relationship, solidarity and help.

When pronouncing the same phrases, men and women can be guided by different motives and interpret the words of the interlocutor in different ways. For example, providing assistance can be interpreted as an expression of solidarity and strengthening communication. But you can see in the help and a hint that the helper (s) is demonstrating his superiority and trying to dominate the relationship. In addition, in every culture there are traditions and rituals of communication that are not the same for men and women. So, during a feast, the floor is often given to men. In this regard, D. Tannen speaks about gender - socially and culturally determined features of communication between men and women. The theory of gender has not found general support in linguistics, but the model developed by D. Tannen has explanatory power, as evidenced by the high popularity of the work, it has been translated into more than 30 languages and is constantly being reprinted[2, 67].

The study of gender in professional communication is of great interest. Thus, as a result of the long-term work of German linguists on the study of the gender specifics of professional communication, it has been established that men and women show tendencies towards different styles of controversy. Men are less likely to agree with criticism, more often resort to irony, references to authorities, use fewer speech means expressing uncertainty, and as a result, they give the impression of more competent and confident specialists in themselves and their innocence[3, 104].

The emergence of gender studies in Russian linguistics usually dates back to the mid-nineties of the XX century. It was during this period that the term gender appeared in Russian scientific literature, and foreign theoretical works on gender issues became available to the domestic reader. Domestic linguistics did not ignore the problem of gender, but considered it (even before the appearance of the term gender) within the framework of other linguistic disciplines. These studies were not systemic, did not claim the status of a scientific direction and were not associated with the theory of social constructivism, but Russian scientists contributed to the development of the problem, which was later embraced by gender studies[4,102].

With a certain degree of convention, it is possible to subdivide "pre-gender" research into the following areas:

1. Psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic studies that study the characteristics of written and oral texts generated by men and women, the influence of the speaker's gender and age on the process of verbal communication, gender specificity of speech perception, the effect of the gender factor on behavior. Communication in the families of the Moscow intelligence was studied.

1) A typical feature of the construction of a text inherent in women is the inclusion in the course of a conversation of topics that are generated by the situation of speech, the actions that speakers perform.

2) Men switch harder, being carried away by the topic under discussion, do not respond to remarks that are not related to it.

3) Women more often refer to personal experience and give examples of specific cases from the experience of their immediate environment.

4) In male speech, terminology is also noted, the desire for accuracy in nominations, a stronger influence of the "profession" factor (it is believed that men talk more about work), a large, in comparison with female, tendency to use expressive, especially stylistically reduced means, deliberate coarseness of speech.

5) The authors attribute hyperbolized expressiveness (terribly insulting) and the more frequent use of

interjections like oh!

6) Associative fields in male and female speech are correlated with different fragments of the picture of the world: sports, hunting, professional, military sphere (for men) and nature, animals, the everyday world around (for women).

7) In women, there is a noticeable tendency towards intensification, first of all, a positive assessment. Men use negative assessments more pronouncedly and include stylistically reduced abusive vocabulary.

As the main conclusion, the authors point to the absence of sharp "impassable" boundaries between male and female speech in the Russian language. The features of male and female speech noted by them are defined as tendencies of use.

A characteristic feature of Russian linguistic genderology can be called the practical orientation of the study of male and female speech: a large number of works are associated with the needs of forensic expertise. They focus on diagnosing and identifying the characteristics of male and female speech. The most significant for this type of research is the development of methods for establishing imitation of speech of a person of the opposite sex. It is found out how it is possible to establish the very fact of imitation, what features of the text allow to establish falsification. So, T.V. Gomon distinguishes a complex of superficial and deep features of male and female speech. The superficial is a competent description of fragments of reality, where women traditionally dominate (cooking, orientation in the problems of fashion, upbringing, housekeeping) or men (repair of equipment, knowledge of sports teams). Such indications can be relatively easily falsified[5,96].

The author considers the general deep feature of imitation to be "the presence in the text, composed on behalf of a woman (man), characteristics that to a greater extent reflect the psycholinguistic skills of male (female) writing." The author refers to them:

Male written speech:

- 1) the use of army and prison jargon;
- 2) the frequent use of introductory words, especially those that have the meaning of a statement: obviously, undoubtedly, of course;
- 3) the use of a large number of abstract nouns;
- 4) the use of words with the least emotional indexing in the transmission of an emotional state or assessment of an object or phenomenon;
- 5) the monotony of lexical techniques in the transmission of emotions;
- 6) a combination of officially and emotionally marked vocabulary when addressing family and friends;
- 7) the use of newspaper and journalistic clichés;
- 8) the use of obscene words as introductory and monotony of the used obscene words, the predominance of obscene constructions denoting actions and processes, as well as the predominance of active and transitive verbs;
- 9) discrepancy between punctuation marks and emotional intensity of speech.

Women's written speech:

- 1) the presence of a multitude of introductory words, definitions, circumstances, pronouns and objects, as well as modal structures expressing varying degrees of uncertainty, presumptiveness, uncertainty

(maybe, apparently, in my opinion);

- 2) a tendency to use "prestigious", stylistically elevated forms, cliches, book vocabulary;
- 3) the use of connotatively neutral words and expressions, euphemisms (swearing instead of swearing; drunk instead of drunk);
- 4) high-frequency is also the use of constructions "adverb + adverb" (very good), simple and complex sentences, syntactic turns with double negation;
- 5) frequent use of punctuation marks, high emotional coloring of speech in general.

In conclusion, it should be noted prospects for further cross-cultural, comparative, ethno and linguo-culturological studies of characteristics interlanguage correspondences in gender on the basis of two or three languages gender based on archetypal opposition "masculine - feminine" has a double function. On the one hand, it is a tool with which both individual and collective consciousness perceives and evaluates the world, all the diversity of human relations in which comes down to the story of the main pair - men and women. With another hand, in the course of historical and socio-cultural development, he undergoes a modeling process, "breaking" old stereotypes and forming new traditional attitudes that reflect understanding roles, places and functions of men and women as in a separate society and the world community as a whole.

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