



## ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF GENDER LINGUISTICS

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### ABSTRACT

This article defines gender linguistics as a branch of linguistics, discovers its primary differentiating characteristics and promotes main concepts of the field. Moreover, this paper deals with the features of gender linguistics and discusses main problems of the subject.

**KEYWORDS:** - Linguistics, gender linguistics, modern challenges, masculine, feminine, neutral, trends, media.

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays in linguistics, there is a rapid growth of researches devoted to the study of the gender parameter in language and speech. Describing the features of the existed works, we can divide them in two directions. So, the first direction - gender linguistics, according to the scientists, which studies language and speech behavior using gender methods, and the object of the second direction - linguistic genderology - the study of the category of gender using linguistic tools. At the same time, a large number of researchers suggest that "... it is not always possible to draw a clear line between these two directions."

However, it becomes clear, that along with the formation of this direction in linguistics, its methodological foundations are also being developed, when both purely linguistic tools and methods are used to study the category of gender in other social sciences (psychology, sociology, philosophy). And gradually, with the development of the direction, in parallel, both

the development of its own, already established methodology and new methods appear, because, in fact, another research paradigm is being formed.

Summarizing the Western general scientific approaches to this category, there are seven approaches in its interpretation. Thus, gender can be viewed as: a socio-demographic category; social construction; subjectivity; ideological construct; network; technology and cultural metaphor.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

While describing the theoretical and methodological foundations of domestic gender studies, O. A. Voronina speaks of three main models:

- theory of social construction of gender;
- understanding gender as a stratification category related to other stratification categories;
- interpretation of gender as a cultural metaphor (Voronina 2001).



Within the framework of the theory of social construction of gender, this category is understood as an organized model of social relations between men and women, which determines their social relations in the main institutions of society (as well as determined or constructed by them). This approach is based on two premises. First, it is believed that gender is constructed through socialization, division of labor, a system of gender roles, etc. Secondly, it is constructed both by people themselves at the level of their consciousness or in other words by gender identification and by the adoption of given norms and roles and the corresponding "adjustment" to those norms and roles.

Gender is a powerful vehicle that produces, reproduces and legitimizes choices and boundaries prescribed by a person's sex category. "Understanding how gender is created in a social situation will make it possible, to clarify the mechanism for maintaining the social structure at the level of interaction between the individuals and to identify those mechanisms of social control that ensure his existence".

In a theory that views gender as a stratification category, it refers to the process by which gender becomes the basis of social stratification and perceived gender differences are systematically measured. Along with gender, these stratification categories are class, race, age, etc. Gender is viewed as a complex process or technology that overlaps with other normative variables such as race and class in the rationing process in defining a subject as male or female; in doing so, the power and subordination system is newly created and redistributed; Gender technologies are seen as discursive mechanisms that determine and regulate the forms and stages of gender education, show how gender arises and how gender becomes an ideological product.

In the paradigmatic framework of the third theory, gender is understood as a complex socio-

cultural process of constructing by society, the differences between male and female roles, behavior, mental and emotional characteristics. At the same time, masculine and feminine at the ontological and epistemological levels exist as elements of the cultural-symbolic series, in which the masculine is automatically labeled as priority and dominant, and the feminine as secondary and subordinate.

The interest in gender linguistics has vividly increased and feminist linguistics shaped in 60-70s of the last century due to the fact that there was a huge wave of the movement of feminists and "new women" term appeared. This phenomenon most often was seen in English-speaking countries. Therefore, we can identify that the new methodology of gender studies is not just a description of the difference in statuses, roles and other aspects of the life of men and women, but an analysis of the power and dominance asserted in society through gender roles and relations. Gender studies consider what roles, norms, values, character traits society, through the systems of socialization, division of labor, cultural values and symbols, prescribes women and men to perform in order to build a traditional hierarchy of power.

Feminist linguistics criticized language for its androcentricity, that is, orientation not towards a person in general, but towards a man. The language has been accused of gender discrimination against women. Discrimination is expressed in the predominance of masculine forms in the language, the secondary and objectivity of women, the coincidence in many languages of the concepts of "man" and "woman", the predominance of negative assessments in the designations of women. The reasoning was based on the hypothesis of linguistic relativity by Sapir-Whorf: language structures and directs thinking, therefore, human consciousness is largely determined by the peculiarities of language.



Feminist linguistics has offered numerous recommendations for language reform.

In gender linguistics, two directions are visible: the first relates to the study of language in order to identify "asymmetries in the language system directed against women." These asymmetries are called sprachlicher Sexismus. We are talking about patriarchal stereotypes, fixed in the language and imposing on its speakers a certain picture of the world, in which women are given a secondary role and mostly negative qualities are attributed.

The main area of gender linguistics is the study of gender characteristics of communication in same-sex and mixed groups. These studies are characterized by a wide scope: a variety of aspects of conducting argumentative dialogues are analyzed - television talk shows, dialogues between doctors and patients, verbal communication in the family.

Today we can talk about the existence of proper gender studies that study both sexes, or rather, the process of social construction of differences between the sexes. Gender is considered an institutionalized and ritualized sociocultural construct - one of the parameters of an individual's social identity. Social institutions (army, school) support differences, give them the status of norms and interpret them as naturally conditioned. Social rituals also create gender asymmetries - in dress, daily wear, and symbolism. Gender as a product of culture reflects the people's ideas about femininity and masculinity, recorded in folklore, fairy tales, traditions and language. In the collective consciousness, there are gender stereotypes - simplified and sharpened ideas about the properties and qualities of persons of a different sex.

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. Or another example, In Uzbek families, at "dasturxon" at the laid table at the top of it sit men, then adults of the family and so on. One more example, when a man and a man



together, first the man should start to speak and a woman. 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.

The study of gender in professional communication is of great interest and importance. 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.

The emergence of gender studies on the territory of Uzbekistan usually dates back to the end of the XX century. It was during this period that the term gender appeared in scientific literature, and foreign theoretical works on gender issues became available to the domestic reader. 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 scientists contributed to the development of a problem that was later embraced by gender studies.

A significant issue is that the undeniable fact that historically gender stereotypes have an effect on the consciousness of a researcher, in some cases influencing the interpretation of data. For

example, the quality concept that ladies are a lot of emotional than men result in the actual fact that identical types of speech behavior in men are taken as neutral, and in women - as emotional samples of this type are often continued. All linguistic studies of gender are mutualist and complementary, however, there are many main directions of the event of linguistic genderology in linguistics:

- 1) socio- and psycholinguistic;
- 2) linguocultural;
- 3) communicative-discursive.

Within the framework of the socio and cognitive psychology direction, intensive analysis of linguistic consciousness, written and oral texts, as well as in the applied aspect, continues.

Within the framework of the linguoculturological direction, work is underway to study the specifics of Uzbek stereotypes of femininity and masculinity and their functioning in the language, to study the features of the reflection of the cultural concepts "masculinity" and "femininity" and gender metaphor in English and Uzbek masculinity or femininity, on objects and phenomena not related to gender, intercultural communication, as well as comparative studies on the material of different languages.

Within the framework of the communicative-discursive direction, the study of the linguistic construction of gender in the communicative interaction of individuals in various types of discourse, the speech behavior of men and women from the standpoint of theories of social identity, communicative adaptation and interactionism is carried out. The plurality and variability of the concepts of masculinity and femininity makes it possible to manipulate these concepts in the discourses of mass communication, for example, in advertising and politics. Studies of the Uzbek advertising discourse reveal gender stereotypes that are



used as a tool for conveying information about the advertising object and about social reality. The analysis of advertising in English-speaking countries and literature, written in English, suggests that, despite attempts to neutralize the gender factor, in modern advertising discourse, the image is being constructed not only of advertising characters, but also of the advertising object itself, in accordance with traditional ideas about the social role of men and women.

In addition, in many scientific works of modern researchers, the works provide data on the nouns denoting male and female persons, their origin is considered: and the time of occurrence in the language system in connection with the phenomena of synonymy and duplication, the processes of metaphorization in relation to the gender category, the influence extralinguistic factors on the development of the naming system for females, the history of the development of such names, the functions of the gender category.

Here we'll move onto the linguistic approach of men and woman in written discourse. It is vital to identify the differences of linguistic approach of men and women. In accordance to multiple researchers, men's written speech has the following characteristics:

- a) army and prison jargon usage;
- b) the frequent use of introductory words, such as - obviously, undoubtedly, of course;
- c) a big amount of abstract nouns usage;
- d) the usage of the words that have the least emotional indexing, avoiding being emotional;
- e) the monotony of lexical techniques in the transmission of emotions.

Women's written speech:

- a) 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);

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

## CONCLUSION

Summing up, gender linguistics is a relatively new branch of linguistics in Uzbekistan with its distinctive features that study particular variables of speech and discourse between female and male population of the world and other Asian countries, of various cultures. The article proves that mentality of the nations that use the language as the native one plays an important role in identifying gender linguistic definitions and characteristics of the language. There is a clear difference between male and female linguistic styles in accordance to the nature of men and women as well as social norms promoted in the society for centuries.

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