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Mashkova E.,
KRSU them. B. Yeltsin,
graduate student

ASPECTS OF GENDER ASYMMETRY IN SPEECH

Abstract

The article is devoted to the issue of gender differences in speech, namely differences in speech between men and women in European, Kyrgyz and Russian cultures. It also explains how these features are caused, and the views of scientists on this problem are collected. Examples are given in English and their equivalent translation into Russian. The purpose of this article is to compare the English language of women and men, to compare social problems and the social system of European, Russian and Kyrgyz society, as well as to trace the development of the language in the aspect of gender linguistics.

Keywords: *gender linguistics, gender differences in speech, sociolinguistic analysis, reflection, nature of women and men, tools of gender science, language criticism, genderology, linguocultural aspect, stereotype in speech.*

КЕПТЕ ГЕНДЕРДИК АСИММЕТРИЯНЫН АСПЕКТИЛЕРИ

Кыскача мазмуну

Бул макалада эркектер менен аялдардын ортосундагы сөзүндө гендердик айырмачылыктар боюнча европа изил-дөөчүлөрдүн илимий иштин баяндамасы болуп саналат, ал америкалык коомдогу акыркы жыйырма жылда байкалган. Атап айтканда, акыркы жыйырма жылдын ичинде англис жана америкалык коомдо эркектер менен аялдардын сөз айырмачылыктары, сөз гендердик айырмачылыктарга багытталган. Жөн гана, бул өзгөчөлүктөрдү улам бул маселе боюнча окумуштуулардын тикирлерин чогултуп, аны түшүндүрүп берет. Мисалы, англис тилинде берилет жана орус тилине барабар котормо жатат. Бул макалада акыркы жыйырма жыл аралыгында жашап англис аял менен эркек салыштырып, алардын коомдук көйгөйлөрдү жана бүгүнкү күндө коомдун коомдук түзүлүшүн, гендердик илими тармагында тилдин өнүгүшүнө байкоо салыштырып, окурманга мисал катары айтып берүү болуп саналат.

Түйүндүү сөздөр: *гендердик тил илими, сөз гендердик айырмачылыктар, социолингвистикалык талдоо, ой жүгүртүү, табияты аялдар менен эркектер, гендердик илимдин инструментарийи, тил сын, гендерология, лингво-культурный аспект, сүйлөөдөгү стереотип.*

АСПЕКТЫ ГЕНДЕРНОЙ АСИММЕТРИИ В РЕЧИ

Аннотация

Статья посвящена вопросу гендерных различий в речи, а именно различиям в речи мужчин и женщин в европейской, кыргызской и русской культурах. Также здесь объясняется, чем вызваны данные особенности, собраны взгляды ученых по этой проблеме. Приводятся примеры на английском языке и их эквивалентный перевод на русский язык. Цель данной статьи - сравнить английский язык женщин и мужчин, сопоставить социальные проблемы и социальный строй европейского, русского и кыргызского общества, также проследить развитие языка в аспекте гендерной лингвистики. К тому же, в статье приводится культурный аспект, который дает нам социальную классификацию - «мужское» и «женское». Также, прослеживается гендерная асимметрия на всех уровнях языка и в нескольких сферах интернет-пространства.

Ключевые слова: *гендерная лингвистика, гендерные различия в речи, социолингвистический анализ, рефлексия, природа женщин и мужчин, инструментарий гендерной науки, языковая критика, гендерология, лингвокультурный аспект, стереотип в речи.*

In the modern world increased attention is paid to the interests of the linguistic personality and in particular gender. All aspects and issues related to the relationship between language and personality, the problem of reflecting gender in language, the relationship with thinking, as well as the speech behavior of men and women, their social and cultural differences are considered within the framework of gender linguistics. Particular attention is paid to the study of the concept of «gender» as a kind of construct that emphasizes the sociocultural and biological characteristics of individuals and represented in the language.

We live in an era of rapidly growing economic, social and cultural development, where the problem of gender relations and the distribution of roles in society is acute. Such an increased interest in this problem determines the linguistic interest in studying the specifics of the speech behavior of men and women. Due to the fact that gender relations are expressed in language, various aspects of the language can be described using the analysis of language tools taking into account gender.

In this way, the purpose of this research work is to consider the similarities and differences in the language of men and women.

The relevance of the research work can be proved by the following: with the development of feminist movements and language criticism since the early 80s, gender linguistics is gaining momentum and becomes one of the topical topics among linguistic scholars and students of linguistic directions. This study will help to better understand the impact of gender on language and vice versa.

At the end of the twentieth century, the concept of «gender» began to develop rapidly and be interpreted in different ways by numerous researchers and became one of the central categories of the interdisciplinary scientific direction, called «gender studies».

For the first time, psychologist Robert Stoller and endocrinologist John Moni introduced a distinction between the two terms «sex» (biological sex) and «gender» (sociocultural gender). And the clearest definition of these terms was given by Ann Oakley, who explained that gender is a cultural subject, which refers to the social classification into «masculine» and «feminine», while gender is the biological difference between a man and a woman [1, p. 443].

The emergence of the concept of gender is not accidental. This term belongs to the English language and its definition was borrowed by the Russian language, due to the lack of an adequate translation. We can say that «gender» is an integral part of the modern process of globalization, understood as the involvement of the whole world in a single universal process that began in the period of the great geographical discoveries of the 15th century. And it was the Western civilization that came to a stage in its development when gender analysis and gender changes became a necessity.

In our time, there is a growing interest in the study of gender studies. Such a science as gender linguistics arose at the intersection of the sciences of gender studies and linguistics. At the same time, it has close ties with such sciences as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, political science, sociology, etc. A. G. Kirov in his article defines gender linguistics as a subject that studies language and

speech behavior using the tools of gender science. Initially, gender studies in language appeared in the West in the 60s and 70s thanks to the women's movement in the USA and Germany, and the first works were based on groups of Germanic and Romance languages. In Russia, this trend began to manifest itself only in the 1980s and 1990s. At the end of the 90s, vigorous research began in linguistic genderology, focused on stereotypical ideas about the speech behavior of individuals in connection with belonging to a particular gender, the representation of the gender category in the language, the presence of gender asymmetry [2, p. 92–99].

At the present stage, a number of works have appeared, such as A. V. Kirilina *Gender: linguistic aspects*, M., 1999, work by R. Lakoff «Language and place of women», works by S. Tremel-Pletz «Linguistik und Frauensprache» and L. Push «Das Deutsche als Männersprache», where an attempt is made to systematically comprehend and describe the language in connection with the phenomenon of gender, a theoretical model of gender is created and methodological approaches to the study of the problem of gender in linguistics are systematized [3].

Now in the West, there are three main approaches to consider the current state of gender studies. The first approach boils down to interpreting the exclusively social nature of the language of women and men and is aimed at identifying those linguistic differences that can be explained by the peculiarities of the redistribution of social power in society. At the same time, «masculine» or «feminine» language is defined as a kind of functional derivative form of the main language, used in cases where speech partners are at different levels of the social hierarchy. The second — the sociopsycholinguistic approach — scientifically reduces the «female» and «male» language to the peculiarities of the linguistic behavior of the sexes. For scientists working in this direction, statistical indicators or the determination of average parameters are of fundamental importance and constitute a framework for constructing psycholinguistic theories of male and female types of speech behavior. Representatives of the third direction generally emphasize the cognitive aspect of differences in the language behavior of the sexes. For them, it turns out to be more significant not only to determine the frequency of differences and operate with its indicators, but also to create integral linguistic models of the cognitive foundations of the linguistic category. In the modern scientific paradigm, all three approaches are considered complementary and only in their totality do they have explanatory power [4, p 26].

It is important to note that any gender studies in linguistics are comparative in nature. A. V. Kirilina believes that any area of linguistics can be viewed from a gender perspective. Also, conducting a more systematic analysis in linguistic genderology, Kirilina identifies six methods for studying this area: sociolinguistic gender studies, feminist linguistics, gender research proper, studying the language behavior of both sexes, studies of masculinity (the youngest direction, which emerged at the end of the 20th century), psycholinguistic research, cross-cultural, linguocultural studies, including the hypothesis of gender subcultures [5, 36].

It is generally accepted that gender linguistics was preceded by feminist linguistics, which arose in linguistics in

the 60–70s. The patterns revealed by her prove the presence of gender asymmetry in the language system. In turn, the emergence of feminist criticism of language was facilitated by the emergence of a number of other scientific areas in linguistics itself, such as psycholinguistics, quantitative sociolinguistics, pragmatics and communication theory.

Based on the research carried out in our time, it can be argued that all languages of the world are androcentric. Androcentrism is a deep cultural tradition that reduces universal human subjectivity to a single male norm, represented as universal objectivity. Language creates a picture of the world based on the masculine point of view, where all feminine is secondary. Linguists distinguish the following signs of androcentrism: identification of the concept of «man» and «man». If you look at many European languages, you can see that they are denoted by one word: man in English, homme in French, Mann in German. Also to denote persons of any gender, the formation of feminine nouns comes from the masculine gender, and not vice versa. Androcentrism is associated with the fact that it reflects the socio-cultural picture of the world in which men occupy dominant positions. In our patriarchal society, everything that is inherent in men is primary, and the image of a woman, reflected in the language, is provided with negative connotations and characteristics.

In many European languages, exclusively negative qualities are attributed to the image of women, this can be especially clearly seen in various phraseological units.

On this issue A. P. Nielsen, for example, notes that quite often words containing masculine characteristics have the status of prestigious. That is why many of them served as the basis for the formation of complex words and phrases such as mankind, brotherhood, Irishman, Frenchman, Scotsman, spokesman, bachelor's & master's degrees, fraternity, fellowship. The existence of these words for a long time limited the cognitive activity of a woman, thereby alienating her from the spheres of politics, sports, education, and so on [6, 11].

There is a great example that shows that masculine nouns that are defined as gender neutral still make you think of a man. Father and son were in a disaster in which their father died. The son was taken to the hospital in serious condition. When the surgeon saw him, he refused to operate on the child, saying: "There is nothing I can do (that is, operate). This is my son «. To many who heard this story, it seemed like a scene from the theater of the absurd, since the fact that the surgeon could be a woman and the mother of a boy did not fit in the minds of almost any of the listeners.

In general, the language has long remained and remains a sphere of professional discrimination against women. Thus, in the professional world there is a double standard for female and male referents, emphasizing the psychological and cognitive inferiority of women. The first woman, a priest of the Church of England, A. Bernes-Wilson, also spoke about professional discrimination. The male clergymen early in her career were fond of her office, contemptuously referring to her as «pristess.» In English, this word is absent at all, there is only the word «priest» (priest). The addition of the suffix «ess», denoting feminine persons by profession or status in society, gives the meaning

of the word a kind of absolute absurdity, proceeding from the principle «there is no such thing, because it cannot be».

A. P. Nielson writes that while studying Webster's dictionary, she found 517 profession names with signs of two genders, 385 with signs of only masculine gender and 132 with signs of a feminine gender. This has developed in connection with the historical division of professional activity, where men have an undeniable superiority. It should also be noted that for five names of male professions, there is one female. However, feminist linguist D. Cameron noted that in English there are 220 words characterizing women of easy virtue, while for men there are 10 times less.

At the end of this paragraph, we would like to note the importance of feminist linguistics on gender issues in linguistics. Feminist linguistics has introduced a number of new linguistic concepts and expanded the interpretation of the traditional concepts of «linguistic behavior» and «meaning». The study of gender asymmetries of the language also contributed to a deeper study of the derivational and nominative systems of the language, as well as cultural stereotypes of femininity and masculinity in general. She also contributed to the improvement of methods of discourse analysis and discourse practices. And, importantly, this discipline allows women to be heard and express themselves differently.

Most scholars who have done gender research, especially gender differences in speech, argue that there is a difference between the way men and women speak.

For example, V. P. Belyanin, in «Psycholinguistics» proposed the features of the use of language by men and women. The peculiarities of the speech style of men and women are manifested at two levels—speech behavior and speech. For example, men are more categorical, striving to control the topic of the dialogue. Male sentences are usually shorter than female sentences. Men in general are much more likely to use abstract nouns, while women use concrete ones (including proper nouns). Men are more likely to use nouns (mostly specific) and adjectives, while women use more verbs. Men use more relative adjectives, while women use more quality ones. Men are more likely to use the perfect verbs in the active voice [7, p. 85].

Women's language is considered a reflection of their individual qualities: emotions, sensitivity, sociability, expressiveness, solidarity, etc. The language of men is proof of their status, independence, control, etc. In general, women are considered politer than men, and sometimes this reflects their social insecurity. Linguistic politeness is usually described by low tone of voice, gentleness, and down-to-earthness. When a person wants to emphasize a statement, they usually use amplifiers, such as raising their voice.

The most noticeable difference between male and female speech is the pitch of the voice. It's all about the length of the vocal cords: in men, they are longer, and in women, shorter. It is in order to accommodate them that men have an Adam's apple on their necks. The vocal cords are arranged like the strings on a guitar: if the string is clamped and thus shortened, the tone becomes higher. Biologists believe that long ligaments are an evolutionary adaptation: the owner of a low voice seems larger than the owner of a high voice, and therefore natural enemies are

afraid to contact him. Long vocal cords and a deep voice attracted women to men and scared away predators [8].

But linguists know that women and men differ not only in the pitch of their voices: grammar, stylistics, and communicative behavior all give away the gender of the speaker. For example, in Japanese, depending on gender and status, even the first-person pronouns differ: men say «boku» to themselves, and women — «atashi».

Grammar is the most tyrannical part of the language system: it is it that determines what meanings the speaker of the language must express. For example, in Russian we are obliged to designate the person and number of the doer for verbs in the present tense (пишу, пишешь, пишут), but in Swedish — not («to write» in the present tense will be «skriver» regardless of the person and number). But in the singular of the past tense in Russian, the verb necessarily denotes gender, so we cannot describe any of our actions in the past tense without revealing our gender: it is necessary to say either «я пришел», or «я пришла». And, for example, in Portuguese, grammar requires you to tell the gender when you thank: “thank you” from a woman’s mouth is “obrigada”, and from a man’s mouth is “obrigado” (literally, “grateful” and “grateful”). Why there are such grammatical categories in a language and not others is an unanswered question: in the case of genus, it is tempting to look for a connection between language and culture, but there is no reliable evidence of this.

Sometimes they write that there are languages in which there is a male and female version. This is reported about Japanese, Chukchi, and many American Indian languages. So, in the Chukchi language, women speak [ts] where men pronounce [r] and [h]: for example, a man will call the Arctic fox the word “rekokalgn”, and a woman will say “tsegokalgn”. In the Yana language (California, USA) some words are longer for men than for women: if the word «tree» is pronounced by a man, he will say «’ina», and if a woman, she will say «’ih». However, if you take a closer look, it turns out that these are not absolute differences of sexes, but differences in style: the female language is usually neutral, and the male language is more coarse, as in Japanese, or more formal, as in the Yana language. It turns out that among the Yana Indians, the language, which was previously considered masculine, is used in communication between men, in official speech, as well as in a conversation between a man and his mother-in-law — and female in all other cases by both women and men. This example shows that there are no purely feminine and purely masculine versions of the language, but there are styles that are more or less associated with masculine or feminine behavior [9, p 110–118].

People of different genders differ in what they talk about and in what situations. We used to think that women talk a lot and interrupt a lot — but research has shown that this stereotype is wrong. In mixed groups, men talk more and interrupt more often. But women are more likely to compliment others: this may seem unexpected (after all, we are used to the idea that men give compliments to women), but such is life. And if you don’t believe it, open Facebook and see what happens when a girl uploads a new photo. Her friends immediately write in the comments «How beautiful you are!», And men do it much less often — perhaps fearing that their intentions will be misinterpreted.

In short, men and women communicate in different ways, but it is clear that there are always exceptions to the rule.

To explore the similarities and differences between masculine and feminine speech, we will take several aspects and provide examples.

And the first point we will look at is the differences in vocabulary between men and women. We may notice that men and women tend to choose different words to express their feelings.

It can be noted that men and women are different in their choice of adjectives. Women love to use a variety of adjectives in their speech, such as cute, wonderful, wonderful, gorgeous, charming, fantastic, while men avoid these words. When a woman leaves the restaurant, she says, «Great food.» If a man wants to express the same thought, he can only say, «Good food.» Using additional adjectives to describe things can show that women’s speech is richer than men’s.

It is also worth noting that women are happy to use words that make their speech brighter and more expressive. These words include amazing, unusual, unique, mind-blowing. Also, if we talk about color, then men do not dare to pronounce words such as purple, lilac, lavender, azure, aquamarine, etc. in their speech.

Due to the prevailing stereotype that women are softer and softer, they try to avoid foul language and foul language. Women try to pay attention to the grace of their speech, so as not to be poorly represented in the light. We rarely hear from women the expression “damn it, fuck you, damn it, etc.”, and more often “Oh my God! Wow «, etc. However, men do not skimp on expressing their emotions with foul language. The word «pancake» or its rougher interpretation is one of the main words in the vocabulary of any man. Let’s take a look at the following examples:

Woman: Oh my God! Do you always get up so late? The hour has come!

Man: Damn! The train is late again!

But times are changing, and now we can say with confidence that obscene language is fully included in women’s speech. And it’s worth noting that this does not make women less attractive and men stronger and more intimidating. Women prefer to use first-person plural pronouns. Whereas men tend to use the first person singular. Example: Women: We need to hurry. Men: You need to act quickly.

In the modern world increased attention is paid to the interests of the linguistic personality and in particular gender. All aspects and issues related to the relationship between language and personality, the problem of reflecting gender in language, the relationship with thinking, as well as the speech behavior of men and women, their social and cultural differences are considered within the framework of gender linguistics. Particular attention is paid to the study of the concept of «gender» as a kind of construct that emphasizes the socio-cultural and biological characteristics of individuals and represented in the language.

We live in an era of rapidly growing economic, social and cultural development, where the problem of gender relations and the distribution of roles in society is acute. Such an increased interest in this problem determines the linguistic interest in studying the specifics of the speech behavior of men and women. Due to the

fact that gender relations are expressed in language, various aspects of the language can be described using the analysis of language tools taking into account gender.

Upon completion of this research work, we can say that we have considered all the tasks. Gender as an analytical category continues to motivate researchers in many areas. In this work, we saw the difference between the use of language by men and women in some ways, and we can notice that there are many differences in the use of language between the two sexes, as well as how gender linguistics has changed over time. We believe that as society develops, there will be fewer differences in language use. Language as a tool for human communication will improve day by day, and this requires the efforts of both men and women. «The creation of women's research initiatives has evolved out of this sense of the community of women, as well as the realization that women are excluded from much of public and academic life.» The greater the participation in public life, business, academia, and so on, there will be other changes in the future. Changes in language may indicate an improvement in the social status of women.

We can also note that the main goal of our work has been achieved. We examined the similarities and differences between male and female speech. After the above research, we can conclude about the complex relationship between gender and language. Having studied this problem in more detail, we saw clear similarities and differences between masculine and feminine languages. Having comprehensively studied the teachings about gender and language, it can be noted that language is an important communicative tool in human society and it is very useful for us to have a comprehensive knowledge of gender and language in this area of sociolinguistics.

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