

İMANOVA KƏMALƏ XALİD QIZI

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GENDER-SPECIFIC LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES.

SUMMARY

The major thing that distinguishes human beings from animals is basically our way to communicate with each other by using language. We have words for specific things, emotions, and expressions. In each language, words are constructed in a certain way and the way of expressing those words has become different.

Gender-based differences in language use have been extensively studied. During the 1970's, vast sociolinguistic investigations were made and one focused mainly on syntactic, phonology and morphology variations.

Gender difference has entered into English studies as a linguistic variable for a long time. The relation between language and gender has become one of the major issues in sociolinguistics since early 1970s. In our modern society, it would appear that women are equal with men. However, the harsh reality tells us that women are not provided with an equal opportunity even for discussions. Now the two sexes respectively command different communication styles. In other words, the language used by women is different from the language used by men.

The use of language is different between men and women in case of vocabulary, in voice and tone, in syntactic structure and style and in conversational style. These differences are influenced by social factors such as gender roles, hierarchical gender relations, and cultural norms. Studies have found that gender differences in language use extend to written communication, with women using more adjectives, intensifiers, and words, while men use more empty adjectives and linking adverbials. Overall, gender-based differences in language use are complex and multifaceted, influenced by social, cultural, and individual factors.

Key words: language, communication, difference, gender, factor.

“Language and gender” refers to the relationship between the language of male and female. Gender difference is not only a reflection of the speeches between male and female, but also a reflection of their different living styles and attitudes. Gender difference is a popular research in many fields, such as in psychology, in sociolinguistics, and in female study. In these fields, the differences between male and female in many aspects have been studied from different angles with different methodologies. Cis-gendered males and cis-gendered females definitely speak in different ways, both culturally as well as linguistically. It is interesting that this study really doesn't start until the early 1970s, in the US and actually specifically Berkeley.

Robin Lakoff and Deborah Tannen are the two originators here, but there have been many others that have followed sense and have done studies, not just on American English, but throughout the world. There is a tendency, certainly in western cultures, to talk about women having certain linguistic characteristics and men tending to have certain other linguistic characteristics. Generally, we are not saying that every single woman uses more proper educated language, nor hedges to start an utterance, nor uses tag questions, nor uses more politeness techniques. We are not saying that no male does any, let alone, all of these. When Lakoff and Tannen were doing this evaluation this observation. There is a tendency for women, especially those who are mothers and those who live and work in male-dominated societies, generally exhibits the following features:

- Rapport talk – show support, build community: “I’m glad everyone had a chance to participate”.
- Supportive – listen and respond to spoken and unspoken conversational clues about other people’s feelings. For example, “I understand” lets the speaker know they are understood and not alone.
- Tentative – create an impression of less authority and less self-assuredness: “The report is due today, isn’t it?”.
- Conversational initiation – ask questions to get the conversation going: “Did you hear about.....?” “Are you going to.....?”.

Please note: this is not to say women can't be rude—they are very capable of being rude, they can very capable of being frank, speaking directly, using all sorts of jargon and slang and everything else in between.

Men tend to exhibit the following features:

- Report talk – focus less on feelings and more on information, facts, knowledge and competence.
- Instrumental – report to get things done, solve problems, define status: “Finish that proposal by Monday”.
- Advice – when dealing with personal problems they try to offer a solution while empathizing to show solidarity does not seem helpful or appropriate,
- Assertive, certain, direct and authoritative – they use statements of fact rather than opinion: “That report is due on Monday” rather than “I think that report is due on Monday”.
- Dominance or control of the conversation for gaining power.

This area of gender-based linguistic differences is evolving, and the data coming in now are fascinating. But in 1971 this was a pretty big revelation; in fact, Robin Lakoff and Deborah Tannen have both written extensively, not just on the subject, but on how their seminal work took off and let everybody explore this concept of what it is to use language in different ways, based off of your gender identity.

Why would any of this happened in the first place? Why would women and men have different language patterns? Frequently, especially in male dominated societies, women frequently have to negotiate a little bit more, they have to be a little nicer,

they have to be non-confrontational; they have to double-down on that if they are in male-dominated arenas. Some of the research lately has shown that these tendencies are true even if in an all-female environment, but if there's a really dominant female that shows a lot of male linguistic traits, many women will take the other side of that coin, as it were.

This concept of face is important to women. It is important, almost universally in almost every culture, in particular if a woman is a caretaker or mother of children. Face is the concept of wanting to put your best face forward. Women tend to put a lot of emphasis on face, although it's not to say that men don't; certainly, some men do and some men don't it, and emphasizing positive face doesn't make them more feminine.

Language reflects, records, and transmits social differences, so we should not be surprised to find reflections of gender differences in language, for most societies differentiate between men and women in various marked ways. The paper will examine the differences from the following aspects.

A. Differences in Pronunciation

Phonological differences between the speech of men and women have been noted in a variety of languages. Usually women's pronunciation is better than men's, such as the pronunciation of "-ing". Shuy (1969) made a study in this field, and he found that 62.2% of men pronounced "-ing" in a wrong way, but only 28.9% of women didn't pronounce right. This can also be shown in the learning of the second language. Usually female students have better pronunciation than male students, and that can explain the reason why more girls choose to learn language as their major than boys. Generally speaking, girls exhibit a better ability in language.

B. Differences in Intonation

Women often like to speak in a high-pitch voice because of physiological reason, but scientists point out that this also associates with women's "timidity" and "emotional instability". Besides the high-pitch voice, women prefer to use reverse accent as well.

This kind of intonation suggests women's gentility and docility. Lakoff (1975) says that women usually answer a question with rising intonation pattern rather than falling intonation. In this way, they can show their gentleness, and sometimes this intonation shows a lack of confidence. As a contrary, men like to use falling intonation to show that they are quite sure of what they are saying. Falling intonation also shows men's confidence and sometimes power.

C. Differences in Vocabulary

Men and women tend to choose different words to show their feelings. For example, when a woman is frightened, she usually shouts out, "I am frightened to death"! If you hear a man says this, you'll think he is a coward and womanish.

The differences in vocabulary can be shown in the following five aspects:

a. Color Words

There is special feminine vocabulary in English that men may not, dare not or will not use. Women are good at using color words that were borrowed from French to describe things, such as mauve, lavender aquamarine, azure and magenta, etc., but most men do not use them.

b. Adjectives

In our everyday life, we can notice that women like to use many adjectives, such as adorable, charming, lovely, fantastic, heavenly, but men seldom use them. When a woman leaves a restaurant, she will say “It’s a gorgeous meal”. If a man wants to express the same idea, he may only say, “It’s a good meal.” Using more adjectives to describe things and their feelings can show that women are more sensitive to the environment and more likely to express their emotions with words, which makes women’s language more interesting than men’s sometimes.

c. Adverbs

There are also differences in the use of adverbs between men and women. Women tend to use such adverbs like awfully, pretty, terribly, vastly, quiet, so; men like to use very, utterly, really. In 1992, Jespersen found that women use more so than men do, such as, “It was so interesting” is often uttered by a woman.

d. Swear words and Expletives

Maybe because women are gentle and docile, they usually avoid using swear words and dirty words. They believe that these kinds of words will not only make others uncomfortable and give an impression of “no civilization”, but also destroy the relationship between her and others. Women always pay more attention to the grace of themselves and their use of language. Women pay more attention to their manners and politeness of using language.

e. Diminutives

Women like to use words that have the meaning of “small”, such as bookie, hanky. They also like to use words that show affections, such as dearie, sweetie. If a man often uses these words, people will think that he may have psychological problem or he is not manly.

Furthermore, women like to use words that show politeness, such as please, thanks, and they use more euphemism, but “slang” is considered to be men’s preference.

f. Pronouns

Women prefer to use first person plural pronouns when they suggest something, even when she suggests the other person, while men tend to use first person singular pronoun, and when he is suggesting the other person, he will directly use the second person pronoun.

D. Difference in Syntax

Though there are no specific rules that govern different gender to use different grammar, we can observe these differences in almost every language.

a. Modulation

When a woman talks, she often takes what others think into consideration. She usually leaves a decision open rather than imposes her own ideas or claims on others. We often hear a woman say “well, you know..., I think..., I suppose.... kind of, maybe I am wrong but..., etc.

When they want to get help from others, men and women express in different ways as the following:

Women: I was wondering if you can help me.

Men: please give me a hand.

From the above example we can see men tend to ask something directly, while women tend to be more polite.

b. Interrogative sentences

Women use more interrogative sentences than men do. Lakoff (1975) pointed out that compared with men, women are more likely to use an interrogative sentence to express their idea, and they like to use tag questions, because tag questions can make the tone less tense. Fishman (1980) collected many couples' conversation tapes, and he found that women used three times of tag questions as men did. This point is similar to the difference in intonation between men and women. Just as Lakoff (1975) said that women might answer a question with rising tone, while men like to use falling tone to make a firm statement. According to Lakoff (1975), women tend to do this because they are less sure about themselves and their opinions than men. The different use of language also shows that women are more likely to be short of confidence. From another aspect, we can say that women are more polite and considerate than men.

c. Imperative sentences

A study observed a group of boys and girls on one street in Philadelphia, and the study found that the imperative sentences that the boys and girls use were different. The boys used a lot of imperative sentences but the girls used more “let's patterns”.

Example: Boy: Give me an apple!

Girl: Would you give me an apple? Boy: It's time to go.

Girl: Let's go.

The research also found that girls prefer to use sentences with modal verbs, such as can, could, may. But they seldom use imperative sentences to give orders. To reduce the imperative tone, they use more adverbs like maybe, perhaps, probably.

d. Correctness of grammar

Women pay more attention to the correctness of syntax. While expressing her thoughts, she would make her utterance clear by using precise grammar.

E. Differences in Their Attitudes toward Language

Women pay more attention to using standard language than men do, so they are stricter with the rules of the use of language.

F. Differences in Choosing Topics

In social interaction, men and women have different interests in choosing their topics. When men are talking, they are more likely to choose the topics of politics,

economy, stocks, sports, current news. While women have more interest in talking family affairs, such as the education of children, clothes, cooking, fashion, etc. Women's talk is associated with the home and domestic activities, while men's is associated with the outside world and economic activities. Thus, while there is a popular prejudice that women talk more than men, empirical studies of a number of social situations such as committee meetings and internet discussion groups have shown the opposite to be true. Women may talk more in informal occasions than men, but they surely play the second role in the formal occasions and tend to speak less than men. Sociolinguists studied women's silence in public situations as well as the linguistic work they do in their partnerships (Spender, 1980). Besides these differences, other sex-linked differences exist, such as women and men may have different paralinguistic system and move and gesture differently.

In fact, according to Deborah Cameron from The Guardian, women generally exhibit the following characteristics:

1. Language and communication matter more to women than to men; women talk more than men.
2. Women are more verbally skilled than men.
3. Men's goals in using language tend to be about getting things done, whereas women's tend to be about making connections to other people. Men talk more about things and facts, whereas women talk more about people, relationships and feelings.
4. Men's way of using language is competitive, reflecting their general interest in acquiring and maintaining status; women's use of language is cooperative, reflecting their preference for equality and harmony.
5. These differences routinely lead to "miscommunication" between the sexes, with each sex misinterpreting the other's intentions.

In conclusion, the use of language between men and women unfolds as a multifaceted phenomenon, intricately woven with various linguistic nuances. Deborah Tannen's groundbreaking work in 1975 marked a significant milestone, offering a gateway to a deeper comprehension of these distinctive communication styles. The delicacy inherent in women's language, coupled with their strong emphasis on social connections, contributes to the rich tapestry of human communication. As our understanding of gender differences in language continues to evolve, it becomes increasingly crucial to consider these nuances not only for enhancing interpersonal communication but also as part of a broader commitment to fostering gender equality. By acknowledging and valuing the unique ways in which men and women communicate, we contribute to creating a more inclusive and respectful world.

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ЯЗЫКОВЫЕ РАЗЛИЧИЯ, ОБУСЛОВЛЕННЫЕ ГЕНДЕРНОЙ
СПЕЦИФИКОЙ.

РЕЗЮМЕ

Главное, что отличает людей от животных, - это наш способ общения друг с другом с помощью языка. У нас есть слова для обозначения определенных вещей, эмоций и выражений. В каждом языке слова построены определенным образом, и способы выражения этих слов стали разными.

Гендерные различия в использовании языка широко изучались. В 1970-х годах были проведены обширные социолингвистические исследования, одно из которых было сосредоточено главным образом на синтаксических, фонологических и морфологических вариациях.

Гендерные различия уже давно вошли в изучение английского языка как лингвистическая переменная. С начала 1970-х годов связь между языком и полом стала одной из основных проблем социолингвистики. В нашем современном обществе, казалось бы, женщины равны с мужчинами. Однако суровая реальность говорит нам о том, что женщинам не предоставляются равные возможности даже для дискуссий. В настоящее время представители обоих полов придерживаются разных стилей общения. Другими словами, язык, используемый женщинами, отличается от языка, используемого мужчинами.

Мужчины и женщины по-разному используют язык в плане словарного запаса, голоса и интонации, синтаксической структуры и стиля общения. На эти различия влияют социальные факторы, такие как гендерные роли, иерархические отношения между полами и культурные нормы. Исследования показали, что гендерные различия в использовании языка распространяются и на письменное общение: женщины используют больше прилагательных, усилителей и слов, в то время как мужчины используют больше пустых прилагательных и связующих наречий. В целом, гендерные различия в использовании языка сложны и многогранны и зависят от социальных, культурных и индивидуальных факторов.

Ключевые слова: язык, коммуникация, различия, гендер, фактор.

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GENDER XÜSUSIYYƏTLƏRİNƏ GÖRƏ DİL FƏRQLƏRİ.
XÜLASƏ

İnsanları heyvanlardan fərqləndirən əsas şey dil vasitəsilə bir-birimizlə ünsiyyət tərzimizdir. Müəyyən şeylər, duyğular və ifadələr üçün sözlərimiz var. Hər dildə sözlər müəyyən bir şəkildə qurulur və bu sözlərin ifadə üsulları fərqli olur.

Dil istifadəsindəki gender fərqləri geniş şəkildə öyrənilmişdir. 1970-ci illərdə biri əsasən sintaktik, fonoloji və morfoloji dəyişikliklərə yönəlmiş geniş sosiolinqvistik tədqiqatlar aparılmışdır.

Gender fərqləri uzun müddətdir ki, dil dəyişən kimi ingilis dilinin öyrənilməsinə daxil edilmişdir. 1970-ci illərin əvvəllərindən bəri dil və cins arasındakı əlaqə sosiolinqvistikanın əsas problemlərindən birinə çevrilmişdir. Müasir cəmiyyətimizdə qadınların kişilərlə bərabər olduğu görünür. Ancaq sərt reallıq bizə deyir ki, qadınlara hətta müzakirələr üçün bərabər imkanlar verilmir. Hal-hazırda hər iki cinsin nümayəndələri fərqli ünsiyyət üslublarına riayət edirlər. Başqa sözlə, qadınların istifadə etdiyi dil kişilərin istifadə etdiyi dildən fərqlidir.

Kişilər və qadınlar dili lüğət, səs və intonasiya, sintaktik quruluş və ünsiyyət tərzini baxımından fərqli şəkildə istifadə edirlər. Bu fərqlər gender rolları, cinslər arasındakı iyerarxik münasibətlər və mədəni normalar kimi sosial amillərdən təsirlənir. Tədqiqatlar göstərir ki, dil istifadəsindəki gender fərqləri yazılı ünsiyyətə də aiddir: qadınlar daha çox sifətlərdən, gücləndiricilərdən və sözlərdən, kişilər isə daha çox boş sifətlərdən və bağlayıcı zərflərdən istifadə edirlər. Ümumiyyətlə, dil istifadəsindəki gender fərqləri mürəkkəb və çoxşaxəlidir və sosial, mədəni və fərdi amillərdən asılıdır.

Açar sözlər: dil, ünsiyyət, fərqlər, gender, amil.

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