

Influence of Gender on Speech Behavior

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the current state of the study of language changes due to gender. The article also analyzes the theoretical and experimental work of foreign scientists involved in the study of the gender factor that influences the speech behavior of speakers.

Keywords: Gender, Sociolinguistics, Gender Factor, Speech Behavior, Men and Women Speech.

Gender differentiation is an urgent problem, because men and women have a whole range of biological, psychological and social characteristics. Dialogue interaction is the most successful object for considering gender characteristics in the field of speech behavior.

Dialogic speech is understood as a special type of speech activity characterized by situationality, the presence of two or more communicants, as a rule, a quick response, personal orientation or addressing.

D. Tannen proposed the following characteristics of female and male verbal communication:

➤ conducting a conversation;

Men and women see the purpose of communication differently. Conversation for men serves as a means for the exchange of information. For women, a conversation is an interaction with an interlocutor. Women tend to pay attention to details because they consider it a sign of interest. Men, on the other hand, can be annoyed.

➤ status positions;

Men tend to manipulate status; at the beginning of a conversation, they establish their position (often dominant) and strive to maintain it. Women are characterized by conversations in a close circle or among people with an appropriate social status.

➤ sphere of communication;

Women prefer personal conversation to public speaking, men vice versa.

➤ discussion topics.

Women prefer conversations of a personal nature, they are more prone to gossip and discussion of personal life or appearance. The most frequent topics for discussion among men are football, politics, stock market positions. Conducting a personal conversation is uncharacteristic for men.

➤ listening style of men and women.

Men are focused on getting information, for women it is more important to establish contact with the interlocutor.

The study of gender and its relationship with language and speech is aimed at identifying semantic, syntactic, phonetic differences in the implementation of speech acts by women and men. Thus, first of all, it is necessary to identify the line of speech behavior of both sexes, which is often understood

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by us as a “communicative strategy”, as well as the rules and norms that they follow or adhere to in a given situation.

Semantic differences

It is considered a generally accepted phenomenon that men make a choice in favor of "communicative cooperation". From the point of view of sociological knowledge in the analysis of a woman's speech behavior, the dominant factor is her status in society, a social group, namely: participating on an equal footing with men in social production, a woman realizes herself in another area related to her special social role as a mother in raising a growing child. generations. Therefore, she, a woman, does not always have the opportunity to fully realize her capabilities and rights, on an equal basis with a man.

Taking into account this non-theoretical, but actual inequality, E. M. Bakusheva believes that this explains some “lag” of women from men, not only in terms of professional qualifications and the degree of social and social activity, but also in the field of linguistic communicative competence. All of the above is due to the following facts: 1) low social status does not allow a woman to use the dominant communication strategy; 2) in order to achieve high efficiency of communication, a woman is forced to resort to a more flexible manner of communication, opposite to domination, namely: respecting and supporting the interlocutor, carefully convince him of the correctness and correctness of her thoughts, of the desirability, and not the obligation, of fulfilling her desire.

Consequently, many aspects of gender studies are implemented in a specific speech situation. A clear designation of the status of the speaker allows you to explain the reasons for verbal behavior in a given situation.

Phonetic differences

To achieve certain goals of communication or a separate speech act, the phonetic aspect is of great importance, because. it is the main indicator of the positions of "superiority" and "subordination". As you know, women demonstrate a special sensitivity and, so to speak, "refinement" in the field of pronunciation tendencies. For male speech, the basic tones of the scales are mainly characteristic - descending, sliding, ascending. In them, the direction of development of the melody is preserved throughout the entire pre-terminal section. For female speech, the most common are descending tones with a preceding rise or fall. The sound of their speech is changeable, the use of a combination of elements of various types of scales can be traced - sliding + even, descending with broken gradualness + sliding, etc., which is quite understandable by stereotypes about women's behavior, including speech.

In the article by U. Labov, which is devoted to the linguistic differentiation of men and women, two important statements were made:

- 1) With stable language stratification, men use more non-standard forms than women;
- 2) In most language changes, women are more likely to use new prestige forms than men.

To prove the first assertion, U. Labov cites several facts:

- Variation of [n] and [ʔ] in unstressed-ing is the most studied characteristic for identifying differences in speech. Men are more likely than women to use the colloquial form[in];
- Men are more inclined to use non-standard variants (affricates and stops);
- School-age boys were found to be much more likely to use stigmatized vowels more than girls;

However, not only European studies can prove the first statement. W. Labov believed that this factor exists everywhere in the isolated, rural societies of Latin America, as well as in large cities in the Caribbean and the languages of South America.

The second statement is proved by scientists on the example of the following studies:

The earliest language change was observed in Switzerland.

The study showed that women are more likely to use palatalization, aspiration, monophthongization and diphthongization of open sounds /o/ and /e/;

Further language changes over the past decades have also confirmed these gender differences. Women preceded men in New York by raising /zhh/ to /oh/, as in moving back /ah/ or moving /aw/ forward;

This position was confirmed by the phonetic changes that took place in the United States. There has been a dramatic promotion by women of the diphthongs /uw/ and /ow/ in the Berkeley area.

Lexical differences

Men's speech is characterized by the following features: frequent use of terminological and professional vocabulary, a tendency to use jargon and slang, abstract nouns, adjectives that define quantitative and parametric relationships, verbs in the active voice. Men are more likely to use neologisms in their speech. However, it has been noted that women also tend to use neologisms and "fashionable" words, but only in everyday speech, and not in official conversation.

According to D. Tannen, men are more receptive to new things in the language, neologisms and terms are more common in their speech. A woman's speech can be called more neutral; obsolete words and phrases are more common in the vocabulary.

Researchers usually attribute reduced speech to men, it is considered an indicator of masculinity. Women can also use swear words or, for example, terms - this is considered the desire of a woman to assimilate into the male team. However, it is known that today the terms have ceased to be a specific vocabulary and have become commonly used. This is due to technological progress, the influence of the Internet and the expansion of people's interests.

R. Lakoff in her article "Woman's Language" compiled a list of the main features inherent in the female speech style: polite clichés, "empty" evaluative adjectives, expressions of uncertainty, evasiveness, direct quoting (men use paraphrase more often), a more detailed lexicon, avoiding rude language and swearing, indirect orders and requests [Lakoff, 1975: 37-112].

“According to Lakoff, the typical features of female speech include: the use of means that soften the categoricalness of the statement - hedges (perhaps, sort of, maybe), polite clichés (would you mind closing the window), “empty” evaluative adjectives, (awesome, charming, divine, cute), "super-correct" grammar and pronunciation, amplifying particles (so), separative questions, appeals.

A.V. Kirilina also mentions in her work that: “women more often resort to diminutive suffixes.

A woman is more focused on her inner world than a man, so the frequency of the use of words that affect feelings, emotions, experiences, thoughts is high. Women are characterized by a more polite style of speech, adapting to the conditions of the communicative situation in general and the personal qualities of the partner in particular. Men, on the contrary, tend to use words from a stylistically understated vocabulary (slang, vernacular and jargon), which in turn demonstrates a desire to show “indifferent” masculinity (so to speak, “pseudo masculinity”, because such a trend is

not its direct evidence) in any communication environment. Women's speech is replete with emotive sentences, which indicates the emotiveness of women's speech, both at the lexical and phonetic levels.

In the speech of men, simple sentences, lexical repetitions, and a large number of verbs are more common. They try to use the active voice, vocabulary that is simpler and more neutral in its stylistic coloring, and, if possible, a direct word order.

In conclusion, we can say that in male and female speech there are cardinal differences at the grammatical and lexical levels. This is due to the fact that women and men are characterized by different styles of conversation, they pursue different goals during communication. Men are more receptive to new things in the language, their speech is characterized by more frequent use of neologisms, terminological and professional vocabulary, as well as reduced vocabulary. Men rely on facts and rarely use emotionally expressive words. Women's speech is softer, it contains means that soften the categoricalness of the statement: hedges, appeals, separative questions, emotionally colored vocabulary. Women's speech is distinguished by correctness and accuracy in grammar and pronunciation. The gender aspect of the speech behavior of communicants must be taken into account in order to penetrate deeper into the female or male picture of the world, and, subsequently, to better understand the actual models of verbal gender behavior, as well as the specifics of male and female speech strategies and tactics.

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