

## Development of Gender Studies in Linguistics

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### **Abstract:**

Gender linguistics is a new branch of Uzbek humanities. It is focused on the researches based on socially and culturally marked gender specificity. The aim of the given article is to view the rise and development of gender linguistics in Uzbekistan and abroad. In the article one can find main stages of gender theory, differentiation of the terms used in gender approach and also the tendencies of modern gender studies.

**Keywords:** Gender, Sex, Feminist Linguistics, Asymmetry, Gender Stereotypes, Masculinity, Femininity, Social Roles, Opposition, Androcentrism.

In the last time in our country there is all the growing interest in gender studies. Gender linguistics arose at the intersection of sciences linguistics and gender studies and has close ties with sociology, politology, sociology and psycholinguistics. Gender linguistics studies language and speech

Conduct with the use of tools of genderology. In the center of attention of gender studies is the stereotypical representation of male and female qualities, verbal behavior of individuals in connection with their affiliation to Tom or other sex, representation in the language of the category of gender, the presence of gender asymmetry, etc.

The study of the relationship between the language and the gender of its speakers can be divided into two periods, the boundary of which is the 60s of our century: 1) irregular (and not related to related sciences) studies based mainly on observations of disparate facts; 2) large-scale research since the 60s, due to the growing interest in the pragmatic aspect of linguistics, the development of sociolinguistics and significant changes in the traditional distribution of male and female roles in society. Thus, the conditions of social reality were extrapolated to the laws of language development, which is confirmed by the data of E. Borneman, who created one of the most fundamental works on the role of the gender factor in the development of society, where the analysis is carried out from the standpoint of an interdisciplinary approach. The symbolic-semantic hypothesis was struck by the discovery of languages in which the category of gender is absent. Nevertheless, as part of the criticism of this hypothesis and its gradual replacement by a morphological and syntactic explanation of the category of gender, the recognition that the category of gender itself is capable of influencing the human perception of the corresponding words and concepts remained unchanged. Thus, personification ascribes to objects denoted by feminine words the properties of females, and to objects of the neuter and masculine genders properties of males. So, according to R. Jakobson, Russians imagine the days of the week in accordance with the gender of the word.

At the same time, ordinary consciousness does not think about what determined the type of the word - semantics, syntax or morphology. All this suggests that the grammatical gender of a name influences the perception of reality and activates in the mind the frames associated with the concept of biological sex, and, what is essential, participates in the formation of positive or negative connotations. Recent studies confirm this fact. The next stimulus for the study of the gender factor

in language was the discovery in the 17th century. "exotic" primitive languages, where there was a division into male and female variants or even separate male and female languages. Reports of such languages have appeared sporadically since 1664, but no systematic research has been done on them. Common to all the few descriptions of gender variability was that the masculine variant was seen as the proper language, and the feminine as a deviation from it. Strictly speaking, it was not about the male and female languages, but only about the female ones.

Only at the beginning of our century, the topic "Language and Gender" attracted the attention of F. Mautner and O. Jespersen. The information accumulated by that time about the differences in the language in connection with the gender of its speakers among peoples in the stage of primitive development, and in a number of languages of Southeast Asia led linguists and philosophers to the idea of the possibility of gender differences in the "civilized" languages of Europe. In 1913, Mauthner published a work on the criticism of language, in which he recognizes gender differences in language, substantiating them with social and historical reasons. Analyzing communication in various social strata, the author revealed a number of features of male and female speech behavior, establishing that men used profanity among factory workers. In high society, however, men resorted to ambiguities, which women were allowed to pronounce, but only as long as their euphemistic character was not lost. According to Mautner, women are less educated and therefore tend to needlessly use foreign words, while educated men do not use them, being able to find an equivalent in their native language. Mautner believes that the creative use of language is the prerogative of men, and women are only able to assimilate the language created by men. Mautner connects the emergence of the "female" language with the historical traditions of the ancient theater, where initially women's roles were played by men. Only with the advent of women on the stage in the technique of dramaturgy did changes occur that made it possible for the female version of the language to "sound" as well.

The historical approach led the author to the conclusion that the society adopted the "female" language when women were allowed to speak, which indicates the impact of the unequal position of the sexes on linguistic socialization. This was a new formulation of the question, since earlier the social aspects of the gender variability of the language were not taken into account.

In 1922, O. Jespersen devoted a whole chapter of his fundamental work on the origin and development of language to the peculiarities of women's language competence. He draws attention to the fact that women use different vocabulary than men, are more prone to euphemisms and less to swear words. According to Jespersen, women are conservative in their use of the language, which is illustrated by the example of emigrant communities and other isolated groups, where the native language is preserved and a new one is acquired at the same time. At the same time, women often remain monolingual, and men quickly learn a new language. However, it was not taken into account that the study of a foreign language by men was dictated by the need to work and communicate in a new language. Women who lived in a more closed, domestic environment did not have such a need. At the syntactic level, women, according to Jespersen, prefer elliptical constructions and parataxis, while periods and hypotaxis are more common in men's speech, which Jespersen gives a higher rating and, on this basis, concludes that men are mentally superior. Although Jespersen most fully interpreted the issue of the influence of the gender factor for his time, his views in the subsequent period were criticized due to the fact that he made his conclusions based only on personal observations, many of which were not sufficiently substantiated.

In general, the first period of studying the gender factor in language is characterized by two features: a) the studies were irregular and were on the periphery of linguistics; b) in the course of describing the features of male and female language competence, the concept of "deficiency" of the

"female" language in relation to the "male" was formed. The "male" language was recognized as the norm, and the "female" language was recognized as a deviation from the norm.

More intensive and systematic gender studies began in the 1960s. The stimulus for them was the development of sociolinguistics, which provided scientists with extensive statistical material on the functioning of the language in groups of people united by profession, gender, age, urban or rural lifestyle, etc. Thus, quantitative studies have shown that the gender of native speakers in a certain way affects language competence. In particular, it was found that women tend to use more prestigious pronunciations.

According to Tregill, obtained during the study of pronunciation variants in Norwich, England, women are more likely to use the more prestigious nasal "ng", and men - the stigmatized "n". Studies of sociolects have confirmed the need for more careful consideration of extralinguistic factors in explaining sexual dimorphism in language. It is women's professions: a teacher, a hairdresser, a nurse that involve communicative interaction with a variety of social groups, which affects the use of the language by representatives of these professions. In sociolinguistics, there is also a hypothesis about the greater conservatism of the "female" language, but its validity raises doubts among a number of researchers.

In the late 60s - early 70s, gender studies in language received a powerful impetus, thanks to the so-called New Women's Movement in the USA and Germany, as a result of which a peculiar direction arose in linguistics, called feminist linguistics (FL), or feminist language criticism. . The fundamental work was R. Lakoff, who substantiated the androcentricity of language and the inferiority of the image of a woman in the picture of the world reproduced in the language. The specifics of feminist criticism of language include its pronounced polemical nature, involvement in the linguistic description of the results of the entire spectrum of human sciences (psychology, sociology, ethnography, anthropology, history, etc.), as well as a number of successful attempts to influence language policy. FL was most widespread in the USA" and Germany with the advent of the works of S. Tremel-Pletzi L. Push. There are two directions in FL: the first relates to the study of language in order to identify "asymmetries in the system of language directed against women." We are talking about patriarchal stereotypes fixed in the language and imposing a certain picture of the world on its speakers, in which women are assigned a secondary role and mainly negative qualities are attributed. As part of this direction, what images of women are fixed in the language, in what semantic fields a woman is represented and what connotations accompany this representation. The linguistic mechanism of "involvement" in the grammatical masculine gender is also analyzed: the language prefers masculine forms if people of both sexes are meant. So, if teachers and teachers are meant, it is enough to say "teachers". In the opinion of representatives of this direction, the mechanism of "contributes to the neglect of women in the picture of the world a. Studies of language and sexist asymmetries in it are based on the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: language is not only a product of society, but also a means of shaping its thinking and mentality. This allows FL representatives to assert that all languages functioning in patriarchal and post-patriarchal cultures are masculine languages and are built on the basis of a masculine picture of the world. Based on this, FL insists on rethinking and changing language norms, considering the conscious regulation of language and language policy as the goal of its research. In German linguistics, the controversy around the theoretical provisions of PL and their practical implementation does not stop. However, it should be recognized that in the field of language policy, the FL has achieved significant success.

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