

THE CONCEPT OF GENDER IN LANGUAGE

Наталья Базаровна Раджапова

Термезский государственный университет, Узбекистан

radjapova2022@mail.ru, Tel. (998) 91 575 89 75

Abstract

Language is not only a means of communication, but also forms our ideas about the world, as well as reflects and reinforces existing social inequalities and stereotypes. The article examines the object and subject of this research is language as a social phenomenon, as well as its relationship with gender norms and stereotypes.

Keywords: Gender linguistics, stereotypes, language, gender neutrality, society, communication.

Introduction

The gender aspects of language are reflected in language policy and legal regulation. Critical analysis of these aspects helps in laws and policies aimed at overcoming gender inequalities in language, as well as influencing their effectiveness and the challenges they face. It is the critical analysis of the gender aspects of language and the proposed possible ways to overcome gender inequalities, examples of successful and unsuccessful practices, as well as the proposed recommendations for creating a more gender-equal language, that help to regulate the social relations of subjects in society.

It is important to investigate the concept of gender neutrality and its meaning in language. To identify and analyze from a scientific point of view different approaches to the creation of gender-neutral forms, as well as examples of languages that already use such forms.¹

Gender issues are one of the most pressing and complex problems of modern society. It affects many spheres of life, including politics, economics, culture and

¹ Radzhapova, N. B. (2023). Semantics of gender vocabulary in the linguistic picture of the world (based on the material of Russian and Uzbek proverbs). Educational Research in Universal Sciences, 2(3), 339-342.

education. However, one of the most powerful and invisible forms of manifestation of gender inequalities is language.

The purpose of this work is to analyze the gender aspects of language and their impact on society, as well as to propose possible ways to overcome gender inequalities through language tools. Language reflects and reinforces gender stereotypes. In the vocabulary, you can always find examples of gender-inequal expressions and phrases that form negative ideas about women and men. Through such expressions, stereotypes are formed that begin to affect society, creating inequality of opportunity and limiting the freedom of human rights.

The study includes the analysis of various linguistic units, such as vocabulary, grammar, syntax, as well as their use in various contexts, including public speech, mass media and everyday communication. The work aims to increase understanding of the impact of language on the formation of gender roles and offers strategies and recommendations for creating a more inclusive and equitable language space.

Gender stereotypes in language are one of the key aspects in the study of gender through the prism of language. They represent the prejudices established in society against men and women, and they affect the way we describe, perceive and interact with each other. These stereotypes permeate all areas of our lives, including language and communication.

One of the main manifestations of gender stereotypes in language is the use of grammatical gender. In many languages, there are differences in grammatical gender, which are reflected in the declension and agreement of words. For example, in Russian there is a division into masculine and feminine genders, and in some other languages, such as French or Spanish, there is also a neuter gender. For example, the masculine gender in a language can be used to refer to general concepts, while the feminine gender can be associated with specific, less meaningful objects. and women - less significant and specific².

In addition, gender stereotypes in language can also manifest themselves through the use of certain words and expressions. For example, many languages have words that are used only to refer to men or only to refer to women. This may create the impression that certain professions or roles in society are available to

² Karkishchenko E. A. Gender stereotypes: discourse means of formation and representation in the communicative behavior of adolescents. Cand. – Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov, M. – 2013.

only one of the genders. For example, the word "nurse" in Russian is associated with a woman, while the word "doctor" is associated with a man. This can lead to women restricting their career choices or feeling unsuitable for certain roles.

In addition, gender stereotypes in language can influence our thinking and behavior. When we use language, we not only describe the world, but also construct it. Language shapes our ideas about what is considered masculine or feminine, what is acceptable or unacceptable for each gender. can lead women to see themselves as less competent or less valuable³.

Gender stereotypes in language can also influence our behavior in social situations. For example, the use of certain forms of address or speech structures can create inequality between men and women. If, for example, there are different forms of address for men and women in a language, this can lead to men receiving more attention and respect, while women receive less. This can create an uneven playing field for communication and affect our perception of ourselves and others.

In general, gender stereotypes in language have a significant impact on society. They shape our ideas about men and women, determine our expectations about their behavior and role in society. Understanding and being aware of these stereotypes is an important step towards creating a more parity society where everyone has equal opportunities and rights.

In conclusion of this article, it can be noted that language is a powerful tool for the formation and maintenance of gender stereotypes in society. The study revealed that gender stereotypes in language not only reflect existing inequalities between men and women, but also affect the formation and maintenance of such inequalities.

One of the important aspects of gender stereotypes in language is the use of gender-specific professional names and pronouns. Such use can limit women's opportunities and support the perception that some professions and roles in society are reserved exclusively for men. At the same time, gender-neutral forms and pronouns can contribute to overcoming gender inequalities and creating a more equal society.

The study looked at various linguistic tools that can be used to overcome gender inequalities in language. One of these tools is the use of gender-neutral forms of

3 Radzhapova, N. B. (2020). Gender parity of human rights in the social sphere of Uzbekistan. Innovative Development: The Potential of Science and Modern Education (p. 207-209).

professional names and pronouns. For example, instead of the words "doctor" and "nurse", you can use the forms "medical worker" or "medical specialist".⁴

Some countries have laws and policies in place to address gender inequalities in language. For example, in Sweden, the concept of "gender equality in language" was introduced, which implies the use of gender-neutral forms and pronouns in official documents and communication.

However, despite existing tools and policies, overcoming gender inequalities in language is challenging. The paper provided examples of critical analysis of the gender aspects of language, which show that even in languages with gender-neutral forms, gender stereotypes and inequalities still exist. Therefore, in order to overcome gender inequalities in language, it is necessary not only to change language structures, but also to change society itself and its ideas about gender.

In conclusion, it can be noted that gender through the prism of language is a relevant and important topic for research. Gender stereotypes in language not only reflect existing inequalities in society, but also affect their maintenance and strengthening. However, with the help of linguistic tools, language policy and legal regulation, it is possible to overcome gender inequalities in language and create a more equal society. It is important that such efforts be supported and implemented at the level of society as a whole. Only then can real change be achieved and gender inequalities in language can be overcome.

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⁴ Volgina E. V. Gender Factors in the Formation of Anglo-American Legal Terminology. K. Philol. n. Saratov. – 2006.

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