



GENDER - RELATED VOCABULARY IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE LINGUACULTURAL ANALYSIS

Inkachilova Amina Maksudovna

Master's Degree student

Group: M2502

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Abstract. *This paper offers a comparative analysis of gender-related vocabulary in English and Russian from a linguocultural perspective, seeking to investigate how language choices reflect and influence societal views on gender. By analyzing lexical terms related to social roles, careers, and gender stereotypes, the study uncovers both similarities and differences in how these two languages represent gender distinctions. The research emphasizes the relationship between language, culture, and social understanding, illustrating how linguistic frameworks and word choices play a role in shaping gender identities. The results provide valuable insights into cross-cultural interactions, sociolinguistics, and the impact of language on gendered perspectives.*

Keywords: *gender-related vocabulary, comparative linguocultural analysis, English language, Russian language, gender identity, social roles, cultural perceptions, gender stereotypes, sociolinguistics, cross-cultural communication.*

INTRODUCTION.

Gender significantly shapes social structures, cultural norms, and interpersonal communication. Language, as a primary tool for expressing human experience, not only reflects but also constructs gendered realities. English and Russian, which belong to different linguistic systems and cultural traditions, offer distinct ways to encode gender through vocabulary, grammatical structures, and culturally embedded expressions.

Moreover, by examining lexical rules associated with professions, social roles, and gender stereotypes, this article aims to reveal both universal tendencies and culture - specific features. Likewise, understanding these linguistic units contributes to broader discussions in sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and cross-cultural communication.

Gender in language is seen by using grammatical indicators, word selections, metaphors, and culturally rooted meanings.

English is viewed as a mostly gender - neutral language in terms of grammar, but it has traditionally included several genders - specific nouns like "policeman," "stewardess," and "chairman."

In recent decades, English - speaking communities have substituted these terms with neutral options such as "police officer", "flight attendant," and "chairperson." Therefore this change shows cultural movements toward fairness and the reduction of unnecessary gender differentiation.

Furthermore, the singular "they" is now recognized as an appropriate pronoun for gender - neutral usage. Its usage prevents unnecessary assumptions about gender and includes individuals who do not conform to conventional classifications. This illustrates how language innovation contributes to cultural transformation.

Russian encounters more challenges in creating gender - neutral vocabulary because of its grammatical limitations and variations. Besides, gender markers influence adjectives, pronouns, past-tense verbs, and even job titles. For instance, "врач," "директор" and "профессор" grammatically masculine, even though we are talking about females. There are words, like "врачиха", or "профессорша", usually used in not academic style. This demonstrates how language structures can reinforce cultural stereotypes and usage of language.



Terminology associated with gender frequently reflects cultural stereotypes. English has evolved to neutralize many phrases over time, but remnants of stereotypes persist in word pairs like: professional woman vs. the lack of professional man employed mother versus the impartial employed father - this asymmetry indicates that specific social roles remain closely linked to a particular gender.

In Russian, there are lexical stereotypes which often even more explicit. For example, “сильный пол” and “слабый пол” reflect traditional, culturally embedded views of masculinity and femininity. Russian features a grammatical structure that demands more rigid gender distinctions.

Additionally, the comparative study underscores the importance of education and media in shaping linguistic views about gender. Finding inclusive language in English through textbooks, news outlets, and digital media encourages speakers to adopt more equitable forms of communication. Change highlights the impact of grammatical constraints and entrenched cultural customs on language practices, the gradual rate of change underscores the influence of grammatical limitations and deeply ingrained cultural traditions on language usage. Nonetheless, the increasing consciousness regarding gender topics, especially among younger people, indicates that both languages can adapt, showing that linguistic development is intimately connected to societal shifts and the joint confront stereotypical views.

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