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COMMON AND DIVERGENT FEATURES OF MALE AND FEMALE SPEECH STYLES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION FROM THE CULTURAL ASPECT

Abstract. The problem of communication between men and women has long been of interest to various scholars, linguists in particular. This research paper considers the gender aspect in the communication between men and women. The social roles of men and women are constantly evolving and changing, so they are constantly in need of study and analysis. In addition, it is also due to the fact that gender linguistics emerged only in the second half of the twentieth century, so there is not much information on this issue. This study analyzes the differences in communication between men and women in terms of psychology, physiology, phonetics, syntax and grammar. The main problems that arise due to this and the main ways to solve them are also identified. It is worth noting that differences in language play an extremely important role in both social and cultural life. The object of the study was gender differences in communication between men and women. The subject of the research is grammatical, phonetic and lexical features of communication between opposite sexes.

Keywords: *gender linguistics, gender features, communication between men and women, cultural aspect.*

Relevance of the study. Communication between male and female has always been somewhat complicated. It is a well-known fact that men and women typically use different strategies in communication.

Both men and women are equally able of using the same words, but the matter is that the linguistic analysis of the peculiarities of male and female communication can be of pure quantitative character, since the practical usage of particular speech units is resulting from the situation itself and serves to obtain the specific purpose of the speaker.

There are many stereotypes observed in society, which influence our perceptions and may lead to actual gender differences. Despite these assumptions, it was proven through a great deal of researches and investigations that men and women differ in their communicative competency in terms of language and conversational styles. The main focus of our scientific interest lies in the gender aspect of male and female communication and all its distinguishing features.

Recent publications review. The following issue became widely researched in the second half of the 20th century by such scholars as D. Tannen, J. Gray, W. O'Barr, D. Zimmerman, D. Jones and others. This article makes an air to determine and analyze the major features of male and female language from the perspectives of phonology, vocabulary, grammar, conversational topics and styles.

The article's objective. The aim of the research is to prove the existence of gender-marked speech, to show the differences between male and female way of using the language, to

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analyze the gender aspect in communication between males and females and its main peculiarities in phonology, grammar, vocabulary, conversational topics and styles. In accordance with the aim of the research, the following tasks were set:

- to define the notion of "gender" and "sex" in contemporary language research;
- to investigate differences of the cross-gender communication;
- to define the distinguishing lexical, phonetic and syntactical means of communication used by women and men;
- to show the main challenges in communication between male and female;
- to identify the essence of Politeness Principle and its usage in male and female communication.

Discussion. The general usage of the term "gender" began to appear in the professional literature of the social sciences in the late 1960s and 1970s. The term served as a useful purpose in distinguishing those aspects of life that were easily attributed or understood to be of social rather than biological origin.

It should be claimed category of gender is a lexical-grammatical category, which in most languages of the world divides the nominal lexicon into formally or semantically motivated groups, the number of classes varying just as the kind of criteria for the division. The interesting fact is that the category of gender can be studied not just by linguists but also by other researchers from other fields of science. Before the work of J. Money, where he introduced distinction between biological sex and gender, it was uncommon to use the word "gender" to refer to anything, but grammatical categories. The consequences become very influential in the world of science. The term "gender" found its usage in psychology, anthropology, sociobiology, literature and politics [5, p. 23]. According to the dictionary of sociology, gender is one of the universal dimensions on which status differences are based. Unlike sex, which is a biological concept, gender is a social construct specifying the socially and culturally prescribed roles that men and women are to follow [19, p. 271]. The psychology uses the term "gender" in order to describe those characteristics of women and men, which are socially constructed, while at the same time, sex refers to those, which are biologically determined. People are born female or male, but the twist is that they learn to be girls and boys who grow into women and men. This learned behavior makes up gender identity and determines gender roles [24, p. 132].

Nowadays in modern linguistics the most disputable problem connected with gender is the separation of grammatical and natural gender. There is a rough correspondence between grammatical gender and semantics: nouns denoting male animate beings are likely to be masculine, nouns denoting female animate beings are likely to be feminine and nouns denoting inanimate beings are likely to be neuter. By and large, if we take a few languages into consideration, we will see the slight difference between them. For instance, in German we can define gender with the help of the articles – "der", "die" and "das". "Der" refers to masculine, "die" – to feminine and "das" – to neuter. Nevertheless, some languages lost distinction between masculine and feminine genders and these two genders united into common gender. We can easily illustrate our words by an example. In Albanian, as well as in Pashto (the South Central Asian language of the Pashtuns) neuter has almost disappeared. In Arabic we distinguish masculine and feminine in the singular and the dual. In the plural we distinguish between male humans, female humans and non-human plurals, non-human plurals are treated as feminine singular regardless of their gender in the singular. In the Chinese language there are three characters – "他" serves for masculine, "它" – for neuter and "她" – for feminine. The interesting fact is that pronunciation of these three words is similar – "tā". But also there are some languages, which lost the category of gender at all. In Elamite (an extinct language spoken by the ancient Elamites) people distinguish neither feminine and neutral, nor masculine [10, p. 110].

According to David Crystal, gender is a grammatical category, which is used for the analysis of word-classes displaying such contrasts as masculine, feminine, and neuter. Discussion of this concept in linguistics has generally focused upon the need to distinguish natural gender, where items refer to the sex of real-world entities, and grammatical gender, which has nothing to do with sex, but which has an important role in signaling grammatical relationships between words in a sentence (adjectives agreeing with nouns, etc.) [3, p. 232].

It should also be emphasized that gender differences are not about sex, because according to the definition, sex is a physiological state of being based on physiological characteristics. What concerns gender, it is a social construct aimed at serving some social

goals. Sex just establishes the expectations for culturally acceptable gender behaviors. It begins from that exact moment, when a baby is born [7, p. 30].

Because of the fact that biology establishes the norms of behavior, it makes sense to take into consideration the science behind gender differences in order to gain insight and perspectives. Scientific investigations tell us that male and female brains function in a different way. For instance, researchers indicate that male brains are 10 % larger than female ones. When men perform a specific task, brain activity is registered only in that side of the brain, where that function resides. This actually enables men to be better at abstract reasoning and to possess stronger navigational abilities and motor skills. Women, on the other hand, have a larger area of the brain containing nerve endings, which connects its' both sides. It causes brain activity to occur on both sides of the brain simultaneously, allowing women to incorporate an emotion assessment with stated facts in a way men do not. This is how the notion of women's intuition is evolved [11, pp. 131-146.].

Of course, it should be mentioned that some questions are quite controversial. It is so, because the results can be claimed only in the case, when we are looking at large groups of men and women. In one on one comparison, the differences do not emerge. There is no established scientific consensus regarding gender differences, although anecdotal support is widely confirmed. This notion that physiological differences are relevant to explaining our ways of thinking, feeling, and the social roles we have historically played, does not mean that those roles continue to be desirable or adaptive under the present circumstances. Some of these roles are based on false beliefs about the nature and scope of the biological differences between the genders; for example, the view that women are not capable of leading because they are too emotional, or that hold men cannot be nurturers. The "facts" continue to be subject to revisions, reinterpretations and criticisms.

With so much conflicting information and inconsistent experiences, it is not surprising that gender communications are muddled. Perhaps the most profound biological difference is the impact childbearing has on women in the workplace. The world of work has developed in a linear fashion and is not designed to accommodate a women's biology. While practical adjustments can be made and policies can be developed to accommodate this reality, the significant impact of this is that the very notion of female authority is shaped by the concept of motherhood. This does not bode well in a world where leadership models are based on masculine traits of warriors and athletes. Science, for better or worse, has led to the creation of gender stereotypes. Stereotypes are not inherently "wrong" – it is how we choose to respond to them which create tensions in the workplace. Stereotypes can be useful if they serve as hypothesis which are tested and challenged before becoming established filters through which we view the world. While the scientific community continues to debate the merits of various studies, the casual observer can at least acknowledge that differences in approach between genders do exist. By exploring these differences nondefensively and in context, we can deconstruct and challenge some commonly held stereotypes about gender roles in the workplace and ultimately improve our ability to communicate across gender lines more effectively.

Stereotypes lead to the establishment of cultural norms, or a system of shared meanings based on collective life experiences. Cultural norms can be altered but such changes usually occur at a glacial pace. Many of the norms we see in today's workplace have their roots on the playground [18, p. 85]. In the childhood boys were usually rewarded when they competed, challenged and won. Girls were praised and rewarded when they acquiesced, accommodated and compromised. Girls got better results phrasing ideas as suggestions rather than orders, while boys stated opinions in the strongest possible terms and waited to be challenged. You rarely heard a little boy on the playground being told, "do not be so bossy!". Boys learnt early on to use conversation to inform or instruct while girls learned to use conversation to interact and connect.

Nowadays it is claimed that differences between the language of men and women arise from differences in anatomy and physiology, but actually it is also caused by differences in psychology. Starting from their childhood, males and females are different in many ways. A great deal of scholars claim that women, in comparison to men, have better memory, while man have better sense of direction. It is believed that women use language in order to achieve intimacy and develop relations, while men at the same time tend to use standard language. We should have our feet on firm ground and acknowledge that it is fully reflected in male and female communication.

The divergent features of male and female language exist in construction change features of language use like pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, syntax, grammar and communication mode. First of all, men and women have different voice qualities. If we are listening to the speech of a person, we can easily guess whether man or woman is speaking. It can be explained by physiological factors – the pitch of the voice depends on vibration of the vocal cords in the larynx. As it is known, at the age of ten or twelve years, boys and girls find out to differentiate their voices. Due to the structure of speech apparatus, boys lower their voices and girls raise theirs. Of course, it is also caused by the size of the larynx – men, on average, have a larynx which is about 40 % taller and longer than women.

Males have not only larger vocal folds, but they also have longer vocal tracts (in this case, the word "vocal tract" refers to all of the organs involved in speech, between the lips and the vocal folds), due to the fact that men tend to be larger than women [13, pp. 45-61].

One more difference lays in the perception of intercommunication. Women use an abundance of non-verbal communication such as making eye contact, gesturing and animated facial expressions. Moreover, woman often prefers talking while sitting or standing in a cluster of people where everyone is face-to-face. A woman might gesticulate, raise her eyebrows, incline her head and shrug her shoulders during the conversation. She tends to make more encouraging gestures while speaking to keep the conversation going and tend to ask a great deal of questions. A man prefers talking shoulder-to-shoulder in an angled pattern where he and his friends can take in the room. The man often prefers relaxed, sprawled pose and keeps the body language and facial expressions more contained. Men tend to keep silence and shook the head. They do not use gestures at all.

Woman may punctuate the conversation with affirmative noises such as "OK" and "Uh huh" to let you know that she is listening. At the same time the man prefers to sit quietly, he focuses on what is being said. In many cases woman is confused by such a feedback, she shows in such a way that she is listening to man's speech very attentively, but he could interpret the woman's conversations noises as interruptions and become annoyed [23, p. 165].

With reference to the syntactic differences – woman's speech is characterized by frequent use of general and tag questions to structure talk, while man's speech is marked by less frequent use of the questions. For example, woman tends to say "This book is extremely interesting, isn't it?". Such structure of the sentence is not common for men's daily expressions. Man will say it directly – "This book is interesting".

General questions, as well as tag questions will make the speaker's tone more reserved, calm and modest. It can also help to avoid the conflicts between speakers while showing preferences, which may concern one or another topic [9, p. 290]. Tag questions usually reflect the uncertain views and wishes of the speaker to get others' affirmation. So, women will choose general question and special question in order to express their uncertain views and ask for others' opinions. However, men prefer to speak bluntly and due to the expression of their competitiveness, they will not give much speaking right to others. It is also strongly believed, that women talk too much, have private and small talks, while men mostly speak in public, men do not interrupt their interlocutors while speaking.

Women are also inclined to use more standard and exact syntactic structures. For instance, man will say "He walks too quick" or "I known that", and woman will say instead of that "He walks too quickly" or "I have known that". It can be explained by the fact that women want to show their status and good education in speech and pronunciation.

Vocabulary different are worth our attention too. It is claimed that some adjectives such as "great", "lucky", "happiest", "excellent" are more used by women. Women also use some positive degree of adverbs in such a way emphasizing good aspects like "really", "largely" and "so much" [22, pp. 217-231].

It proves that women tend to use euphemistic expressions and exclamations. Of course, it is common for many languages. In the English language women often use such words as "My dear", "Oh God", "Oops", "Yoo-hoo", "Wow". In Chinese they use almost similar phrases – "套言 tàoyán" (it can not be translated into English properly, because the English language does not have correspondences, but it is a compliment, which is used by female in conversations in order to encourage the speaker to continue expressing his point of view), "唉 ài" (this word is used to express sadness, sorrow and emotional excitement), "亲爱的 qīn'ài" (it can be translated as "my dear"), "喔嚯 ōhuò" (it is the most common exclamation). In German women use such words as "mein Schatz" ("my dear"), "Meine Güte!" ("Oh my God"),

"Ach, nee!" ("Oh no, really?").

What is more, women avoid using slang and dirty words even in the situations when they are angry and furious, which is, by the way, not typical for men at all. These words will be used by men even in everyday speech. In the Chinese language they will use such words as "他妈的 tā mā de", "活见鬼 huó jiàn guǐ", "狗东西 gǒu dōng xī", in German – "Fick die Henne!", "fieser Kerl", "verdammte Scheiße!", which are equivalents for English "shit", "damn it" and "what the heck!".

Besides, there are greeting differences for women and men. Females add more emotional colors to salutations while men do not do that. Females also prefer to add endings "-ie" or "-er" to some nouns. For instance, they say "bookie" and "groupie", while men use such words as "bookmaker" and "musical group", without adding any suffixes.

The interesting aspect is that topics of male and female discussions also vary. When men talk to each other, they feel competition. Generally, men talk eloquently about different kinds of competitive topics like sports and hunting while women's topics of conversation are usually about individuals, family life and emotions. What is more, when man is talking with women, he tends to take the initiative in conversation. It means that he speaks not so competitively, and women do not limit their talk to family life only. As we can see, the dialogues showing directly one's inner lives are more appropriate for women, and men, on the contrary, are inclined to hide their feelings [1, p. 42].

Klein once made a research in an ordinary worker's family. He found what men normally talk about their working conditions, sports news and other related topics, while women mainly talk about family and family members. It deals with males' and females' mentalities: women prefer to harmonize and soften interpersonal relationship while men just think about showing their leading roles and assert their dignities [8, p. 131].

There are also cases when men and women speak the same languages, but some distinct linguistic features occur in their speech. In Japanese there are different words with have similar meanings, but should be used distinctively by men and women. If man and woman have a dinner and woman asks "Give me a glass of water, please", she will use the word "お冷や ohiya" for "water". But if man asks the same question, he will use the word "水 mizu".

Scientists state that women are inclined to use "superpolite" language, which is also fully reflected in their usage of grammar. Women make an air not to use contractions, while men do not draw attention to this aspect. While discussing some issues or important topics, speakers hope to earn respect from the interlocutor, that is why, they need to use appropriate strategies in order to express politeness and honor. Basically, Politeness Principle deals with this concept. According to Geoffrey Leech, Politeness Principle includes six maxims: Tact maxim, Agreement maxim, Generosity maxim, Modesty maxim, Sympathy maxim, Approbation maxim [14, p. 89]. With the help of these maxims, speakers try to shorten the distance between each other and consider the places of the counterparts in order to achieve the effect of praising the other partner and restraining oneself in the wording.

Men and women, due to the dissemblance in their psychology, behave in a different way in performing Politeness Principle. As it was mentioned, women perform better in applying Politeness Principle. This fact can be observed from four aspects – using humor, sympathy, slang, euphemism and expressing approbation [14, p. 115]. Slang includes vulgarism, swearing and jargon. While choosing a proper word, females are inclined to choose those without rhetoric. Men, vice versa, prefer not only neutral words, but also words with law rhetorical style, such as terminology, which concerns technology and politics [4, p. 122]. By and large, if we compare men with women, we will see that men have a larger scope in choosing words in order to express their ideas.

Jespersen lays an emphasis on the fact that women avoid using taboo register instinctively and "their expression is refined, reserved and indirect". Coats also states that women would rather choose "polite words". Men, on the contrary, use more swearing. The point that social gender identity takes into consideration impoliteness and does not stick to small points can be characterized as the features of macro image. That is this notion, which encourages men to use slang. The example of it is the fact that in many English speaking countries, men prefer to pronounce nonstandard phonemes [17, p. 34].

The next point is humor. According to Longman dictionary, humor is the special quality in something that makes it funny and makes people laugh. Another definition is that it is a kind of message whose verbal skill or incongruity has the power to evoke laughter. The interesting

fact is that investigations in psychology, as well as in sociology showed that actively produced humor was harder to combine with female role expectations than with male ones.

The humorous presentations experiences are conversationally structured, that is why people can laugh about them together. They contribute to entertainment and relaxation, but because of the fact that they want to amuse people, they can covertly introduce serious matters so that the group is enabled to assure itself of similar experiences, perspectives or values. Of course, negative experiences can be presented in such a way that real relations are reversed in the humorous anecdote. For instance, the powerful are exposed as fools and the true victors – as losers. As we can see, in the following way men can express that they despise others. Topics, which can be considered as partly taboo, such as envy or some physical problems, can be dealt with allusively.

Scholars claim that there are several reasons, which can explain, why in speech behavior, men practice humor more often than women. First of all, social standards consider the part that humor should be dominating in the conversation. Secondly, due to the fact that females have smaller scope in choosing words in speech behavior, it is really much more difficult for them to deconstruct the routine of language, which is exactly the essence of humor. Thirdly, in patriarchal gender norms, females' powerless behavior is favored instead of powerful. Since almost no female role is actually evaluated in society, women presumably develop greater role distance than men. This could affect their humor style [6, pp. 34-47].

What concerns approbation and sympathy, in communication, sympathizing other's plight and approbation other's achievements are effective ways to save both negative and positive face. But mainly we can find approbation and sympathy in women's speech.

Conclusions. Both men and women struggle when communicating with the opposite gender. If you want to make communication effective, you should bear in mind that it must be understood. One of the biggest barriers to effective communication is gender. The first step to the gender communication barrier is to identify male and female communication patterns. Only when a person can begin to understand the different strengths and styles of both genders, it will bring to the table. In spite of the fact that men and women are different in nature, but they share common social and communicative competence and dispose of the same repertoire of words, grammatical tools and stylistic awareness.

From a very early age, males and females are taught different linguistic styles. Communication behaviors that are acceptable for girls may not be acceptable for boys and vice versa. Parents and peers speak differently to children regarding social rewards and goals. Therefore, boys are taught to be solid and impassive. They tend to play outside in large structured groups with aggressiveness and competitiveness with a winner and a loser. Also, they want to be the center of attention and achieve higher status by telling stories and jokes or challenging other stories or jokes. On the other hand, females are trained to demonstrate greater feelings and cooperation. Girls play in small groups or pairs and tend to have a more intimate relationship with other girls. They play fair and take turns with no winners or losers. Another important aspect in communication for women is they sit and talk about concerns of seeking approval and popularity.

The interesting fact is that men tend to be leaders in conversation, they are used to suggest a topic, their speech is not characterized by vivid emotions or words expressing doubt and hesitation. Women are inclined to speak using a large number of questions and emotional words. They tend to accept topics that are suggested by men. In speech behavior women tend to obey the Politeness Principle. In general, they express more approbation, sympathy and use more euphemisms than men. These phenomena can be explained by the fact that they live in respective communication subcultures. In their childhood, boys' and girls' language is shaped by games and friendship, but after becoming adults, men and women play different social roles, which are reflected in different conversational styles.

Conflict of Interest and other Ethics Statements

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Тетяна ВАСИЛЕВСЬКА, Аліна ГОЛІНКО
СПІЛЬНІ ТА ВІДМІННІ РИСИ ЧОЛОВІЧОГО ТА ЖІНОЧОГО
СТИЛЮ МОВЛЕННЯ, А ТАКОЖ ЇХНЯ ІНТЕРПРЕТАЦІЯ
З ТОЧКИ ЗОРУ КУЛЬТУРНОГО АСПЕКТУ

Анотація. Проблема спілкування між чоловіками та жінками вже довгий час є предметом зацікавленості різних учених, лінгвістів зокрема. У даній науковій роботі розглянуто гендерний аспект у спілкуванні чоловіків та жінок. Соціальні ролі чоловіків та жінок увесь час динамічно розвиваються та змінюються, тому постійно потребують вивчення та аналізу. Окрім того, це спричинено також тим, що гендерна лінгвістика виникла лише у другій половині двадцятого століття, тому інформації з приводу цього питання не так вже й багато.

Дане дослідження аналізує відмінності у спілкуванні чоловіків та жінок з точки зору психології, фізіології, фонетики, синтаксису та граматики. Також виявлені основні проблеми, які виникають за рахунок цього та основні шляхи їхнього вирішення. Варто зазначити, що відмінності у мові відіграють надзвичайно важливу роль як в соціальному, так і в культурному житті.

Об'єктом дослідження вибрано гендерні особливості у спілкуванні між чоловіками та жінками. За предмет дослідження взято граматичні, фонетичні та лексичні особливості спілкування між протилежними статями.

Ключові слова: гендерна лінгвістика, гендерні особливості, спілкування чоловіків та жінок, культурний аспект