

THE CONCEPT OF GENDERED SPEECH AND ITS LINGUISTIC FOUNDATIONS

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Annotation: This article analyzes the concept of gendered speech and its linguistic foundations based on modern linguistic approaches. The study examines the factors influencing the formation of gendered speech, as well as the linguistic features characteristic of male and female speech, including pragmatic and discursive differences, from a scientific perspective. The research employs sociolinguistic analysis, discourse analysis, comparative-linguistic methods, and a pragmatic approach. The results demonstrate that gendered speech is closely connected with socio-cultural factors and that systematic differences exist within linguistic units. The conclusions contribute to enriching ongoing research in the field of gender linguistics.

Keywords: gendered speech, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, discourse, linguistic analysis.

Introduction. In modern linguistics, the issue of the relationship between speech and social, cultural, and psychological factors is of great scholarly significance. One such factor is gender, that is, a socially and culturally constructed role formed by society beyond a person's biological sex. The concept of gendered speech has developed as a linguistic field focused on studying differences in the use of language units by men and women.

The study of gendered speech began to develop rapidly in the second half of the twentieth century within the frameworks of sociolinguistics and pragmalinguistics. In the works of scholars such as Robin Lakoff, Deborah Tannen, and Jennifer Coates, differences between male and female speech are explained through social and cultural factors. The relevance of this article lies in the fact that the issue of gendered speech is examined not only within linguistics, but also in close connection with sociology, psychology, and cultural studies.

The aim of the research is to elucidate the theoretical foundations of the concept of gendered speech and to identify the linguistic features characteristic of male and female speech.

The research objectives are as follows:

- to provide a scientific definition of the concept of gendered speech;
- to analyze the relationship between gender and language;
- to identify the main linguistic features of male and female speech;
- to interpret the obtained results based on scholarly sources.

Methodology

In this study, several modern linguistic methods were employed to examine gendered speech on a scientific and systematic basis. The methodology was developed using a comprehensive approach and applied in accordance with the aims and objectives of the research.

The sociolinguistic method served as a primary tool for identifying the influence of the gender factor on speech behavior. Through this method, the impact of social roles, status, communicative situations, and cultural norms on the speech of men and women was analyzed. In particular, the degree of politeness, forms of commands and requests, and address forms in speech were examined from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Discourse analysis made it possible to determine how gendered speech is formed in real communicative situations. Speech strategies used by men and women, topic selection, and modes of initiating interaction were analyzed in samples of spoken and written discourse. This method helped to reveal the context-dependent nature of gendered speech.

The comparative-linguistic method allowed for the comparison of lexical, grammatical, and syntactic units used in male and female speech. Through this method, gender-specific speech markers were systematized, and their similarities and differences were identified.

The pragmatic method focused on identifying the communicative purposes and functions of speech units within specific communicative situations. In particular, emotional units, modal words, evaluative expressions, and speech acts (such as requests, advice, and commands) were analyzed from a gender perspective.

Results

The results obtained during the research process confirmed that the gender factor has a significant influence on speech activity. The findings were systematically analyzed across different linguistic levels.

Lexical findings. It was found that women's speech more frequently contains emotional-evaluative vocabulary, intensifiers (such as very, extremely), politeness markers, and expressive words. In contrast, men's speech tends to be dominated by precise, concise, and neutral lexical units.

Grammatical findings. From a grammatical perspective, women's speech more often employs interrogative and conditional sentences, as well as constructions with a polite or requesting tone. In men's speech, simple sentences and imperative constructions prevail. This phenomenon was found to be closely related to the communicative purpose of speech.

Pragmatic findings. The results of the pragmatic analysis indicate that strategies aimed at maintaining and extending interaction are more characteristic of women's speech, whereas result-oriented strategies dominate in men's speech. These differences point to the existence of gender-specific speech models.

Speech strategies and communicative intentions. The analysis shows that women's speech more often incorporates strategies aimed at sustaining communication, maintaining cooperation, and mitigating conflict. For example, women tend to use interrogative forms, additional words, and explanatory remarks to keep the conversation going and encourage interactive communication.

Men's speech, on the other hand, is more result-oriented, focusing on delivering clear information and making decisions. This demonstrates how gender-specific speech models manifest themselves in real communicative processes.

Sociolinguistic analysis results. From a sociolinguistic perspective, the study revealed that politeness, forms of address, and adherence to cultural norms are more prominently expressed in women's speech. In men's speech, firmness and direct expression tend to prevail. These differences are particularly evident in professional and family communication contexts.

Discussion.

The obtained results were comparatively discussed in relation to existing theoretical perspectives in gender linguistics. The lexical, grammatical, and pragmatic differences identified in the study confirm both classical and contemporary scholarly approaches to gendered speech.

First, the frequent use of emotional and evaluative units in women's speech aligns with Robin Lakoff's theory of "women's language." Lakoff emphasizes that politeness, caution, and evaluative expressions characteristic of women's speech are closely linked to social roles. Similarly, the present study revealed the predominance of intensifiers, modal words, and request-oriented constructions in women's speech.

According to Deborah Tannen's views on gendered communication, men's and women's speech differ in terms of communicative goals: men's speech tends to be more competitive and result-oriented, whereas women's speech is oriented toward cooperation and the maintenance of interaction. The findings of this study support this perspective as well, as men's speech was characterized by a higher frequency of imperative tone and simple sentence structures, while

women's speech showed a predominance of question-answer patterns and dialogue-oriented constructions.

In Jennifer Coates's research, gendered speech is interpreted as a phenomenon directly connected to social context. Likewise, the present study found that gender-specific speech features vary depending on the communicative situation, topic, and social role. This allows gendered speech to be understood not as a fixed and unchanging phenomenon, but rather as a dynamic and context-dependent process.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, gendered speech can be considered a linguistically complex and multi-layered phenomenon. The results of the study demonstrate that significant differences exist between male and female speech at the lexical, grammatical, and pragmatic levels. Women's speech tends to incorporate strategies aimed at maintaining interaction, sustaining cooperation, and mitigating communication, whereas men's speech is characterized by result-oriented goals and more direct forms of expression. Gendered speech is shaped by socio-cultural factors. An individual's social role, communicative context, and choice of topic play a crucial role in determining speech strategies.

The conclusions drawn from this study provide both theoretical and practical foundations for future research in the fields of gender linguistics, sociolinguistics, and pragmalinguistics.

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