



## THE SPECIFICITY OF GRAMMATICAL GENDER IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CATEGORIES OF LANGUAGE

**Submission Date:** November 30, 2022, **Accepted Date:** December 05, 2022,

**Published Date:** December 08, 2022

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/philological-crijps-03-12-05>

**Journal Website:**  
<https://masterjournals.com/index.php/crijps>

**Copyright:** Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

**A. Taekeeva**

Lecturer Karakalpak State University, Uzbekistan

### ABSTRACT

This scientific article is devoted to the specifics of the grammatical category of the genus of nouns in multi-system languages, particular morphological categories, certainty-uncertainty of generic and non-generic languages.

### KEYWORDS

Particular, substantive, originality, abstract, unmotivated, paradoxical, name, effect, semantics, stylistic function.

### INTRODUCTION

The grammatical category of the genus of nouns, which has great activity at different language levels and has significant stylistic capabilities, is in constant interaction with other particular morphological categories peculiar to the noun in

the generic German language - the categories of number, case, definiteness-uncertainty.

In order to clarify the specific nature of this grammatical category in the system of German nouns, we will consider the relationship and interchangeability of substantive morphological





categories, as well as the distinctive features of the grammatical gender category of interest to us.

## THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

All the particular morphological categories of a noun – the categories of gender, number, case, definiteness-uncertainty – are systematically formed by one common grammatical means – the article, which in a number of languages (for example, German) can reasonably be called the generic determinative of nouns. However, the most expressive connection of grammatical gender is found by the categories of number and case. Expressing the meaning of objectivity and thereby providing the opportunity to think objectively, the noun "represents a system of case forms of singular and plural numbers, reproducing a certain generic type of declension"[1, 46].

Let us turn to the German language material that is particularly illustrative in this regard. Since in this language the category of gender is the basis of declension, depending on the generic affiliation of a word, not only its case system changes, but also the way the plural is formed.

For example: N. Sg. G. Sg M. Pl

der Junge des Jungen die Jungen

das Buch des Buchs die Bücher

die Gans der Gans die Gänse.

The lexical and grammatical categories of abstractness, collectivity, etc. existing in the language. they are naturally formed by means of interrelated substantive categories of gender, number, certainty-uncertainty.

The interaction of substantive categories is also manifested at the level of word formation, since the word-forming suffixes of nouns "potentially include indications of the type of declension, the category of gender, and even the category of number" [1, 56]. For example, the feminine suffix -in, denoting female persons and animals, determines the type of declension of the noun, the method of formation of the plural and, first of all, the category of grammatical gender.

Different lexical meanings are associated with the categories of number and gender of nouns. Both some and others are able to create homonyms expressed by differences in the forms of the genus:

der Flur - canopy, corridor die Flur - meadow

der Moment - moment das Moment - circumstance,

der Kaffee - coffee das Kaffee – cafe;

or in the number forms:

die Schuld (ohne Pl) - guilt, die Schuld - die Schulden – debt -debts;

das Licht - light, die Lichter - lights, candles.

Performing certain syntactic functions in the construction of phrases, all substantive categories closely interact:

N. Sg. ein grünes Tuch - das grüne Tuch

eine grüne Lampe - die grüne Lampe

ein grüner Zweig -der grüne Zweig.

However, this happens only in the singular. In general, the "structural cohesion" of particular morphological categories of a noun is expressed not only in declension forms, but also in the construction of phrases and sentences [5, 101-102].





Thus, the gender category occupies a central position among other substantive categories and once again confirms the opinion that grammatical gender is the most important, characteristic morphological feature of nouns. All particular substantive categories in German (as well as in Russian and some other languages) characterize, albeit less consistently, not only nouns, but also other lexical and grammatical categories of words, for example, adjective, pronoun, numeral, some verb forms, etc.

The grammatical category of the genus of nouns in both Russian and German has, however, a great originality, a number of distinctive features in comparison with other substantive categories related to it. At the same time, the specificity of the genus category is very multifaceted and manifests itself in different directions. Thus, the morphological category of the genus of nouns is peculiar from a formal (grammatical) point of view. The indissoluble connection between the grammatical design of nouns and their generic affiliation can be traced throughout the history of the German language [4, 147-148]. First of all, it is necessary to point out the comprehensive nature of grammatical gender categories. The substantive category of gender covers with its categorical forms of masculine, feminine or neuter gender the entire vocabulary of nouns of the German language, except for those words that are used only in the plural form. This means that in German (as in Russian), almost all nouns (except for the indicated small group) fall into three classes, including words that differ in meaning, but are united by one attribute - masculine, feminine

or neuter gender. Thus, grammatical gender in German is a mandatory attribute of every noun. Very significant in this respect, emphasizing the specifics of the gender category, is the fact that nouns "do not change by gender, but belong to one of three genera" [3, 18], which does not allow, as a rule, to talk about changing the forms of grammatical gender within the same word. Exceptions are cases of fluctuations and historical transition from one generic group to another with the preservation of the meaning of nouns by changing analytical means - article forms: der, die, Abscheu; der, das Kehrlicht; der, die Wulst, as well as by external and internal synthetic means - umlaut and suffixation: das Eck - die Ecke; der Schuz - die Schürze; das Rohr - die Röhre. Thus, so-called heterogeneous doublets arise. However, the fact that the grammatical form of the genus of the same word, as a rule, does not change, does not deprive the genus category of the most active role at the morphological level. Grammatical gender is the formal basis of the entire system of inflection of nouns, determines the types of declension and relates singular nouns to one of them.

The category of the case is more abstract than the other particular categories of the noun. It is "peculiar to every noun: regardless of the particular and specific meaning of the noun, any noun changes by case. However, not every noun changes by numbers. The lesser abstractness of the number category is manifested in the greater activity of this category from the lexical meaning of the name" [2, 17].





The morphological category of the genus is also peculiar from a lexico-semantic and stylistic point of view. However, at the present stage of development of Indo-European languages, the morphological category of the genus of nouns has limited opportunities to convey the objective content of thinking, the phenomena of real reality by the system of its grammatical means. However, in German and Russian, despite a number of significant contradictions, there are no sufficient grounds to consider the category of grammatical gender unconditionally unmotivated. Categorical forms of masculine and feminine gender express certain phenomena of the objective world in the categories of person and animate nouns: on the one hand, these are naturally sexual differences of living beings, on the other hand, the general meaning of a person, a person, and, since "the category of animateness grammatically dominates the category of inanimate" [1, 74], the substantive category the kind should be recognized as relatively motivated.

A specific feature of grammatical gender, from the point of view of the manifestation of logical categories in the language, is the presence of sharp contradictions. The following remark is relevant here. W. Jung [6, 12]: "One should never think that language is always logically correct. Many correct language forms do not coincide with logic." In fact, there are two natural genders in nature, and there are three of them in the grammatical system of the Russian and German languages.

The masculine and feminine genders are formed not only by living beings of the male and female sex, but also by a huge mass of inanimate objects and abstract concepts. On the other hand, categorical forms of the middle (neutral) genus combine the names of animate, including humans: das Weib, Kind, Mädchen, Schaf, Pferd, Huhn.

Feminine names can call men: die Person, Waise, Wache, and masculine names can call women: der Professor, Dozent, Lehrling, which from a logical point of view is generally paradoxical.

The same formal contradictions are observed in the word composition: der Backfisch, das Frauenzimmer, das Weibsbild - female beings.

Among the names of living beings, a significant group of so-called epicene names stands out, uniting individuals and animals of both sexes, but decorated with any grammatical gender: der Vogel, die Maus, das Reh.

Categorical forms of grammatical gender play an important role, as noted above, in the design of various lexico-semantic classes and lexico-grammatical categories included in the noun system. For example, the category of a person [1,79] entering the broader category of animateness, both in Russian and German, is consistently formed by the masculine gender: Sie ist Lehrling, Schlosser. Genossin X ist Dekan, Dozent, Kandidat der Philologie. As can be seen, the morphological category of the genus can be a source of subtle semantic effects and has significant stylistic possibilities.

## CONCLUSION





Thus, the category of grammatical gender, on the one hand, acts in close relationship and has some common features with other substantive categories, expressing together with them the subject meaning of nouns. On the other hand, having a specific peculiarity, it performs not only grammatical, but also lexico-semantic and stylistic functions, which does not prevent it from being the most characteristic morphological feature of this part of speech.

Mannheim-Leipzig:  
Institut, 1996.- S. 12.

Bibliographisches

## REFERENCES

1. Виноградов В.В. Русский язык (Грамматическое учение о слове).- Издание второе.- М.- Л.: Высшая школа, 1972.- С. 79.
2. Гулыга Е.В., Натанзон М.Д. Теория современного немецкого языка. Грамматика. - Ч.1.- М.: Просвещение, 1956.- С 17.
3. Крушельницкая К.Г. Очерки по сопоставительной грамматике немецкого и русского языков.- М.: Просвещение, 1961.- С. 18.
4. Cherubim D. Deutsche Sprache in der Gegenwart: Probleme, Aufgabe und Prüfstein für die Germanistik // Zeitschrift für germanistische Linguistik.- Berlin; New York, 1996.- Jg. 14, №2.- S. 147-148;
5. Eisenberg P..Grundriß der deutschen Grammatik.- Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1999.- S. 101-102.
6. Jung W. Grammatik der deutschen Sprache.- 10., neubearbeitete Auflage.-