



STAGES OF LINGUISTIC STUDIES ON GENDER ISSUES IN DIFFERENT SYSTEM LANGUAGES: UZBEK, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

Submission Date: May 21, 2024, **Accepted Date:** May 26, 2024,

Published Date: May 31, 2024

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/philological-crjps-05-05-22>

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

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the process of defining gender is explained by using the materials of different system languages and dictionaries. Moreover, the development of studying gender in linguistic researches are generally mentioned by dividing two stages named metagender and gender.

KEYWORDS

Gender, subclass, sex, gender linguistics, metagender, male, female, masculine, feminine, biological index, social index, indentity, socialization, gender factor, grammatical class.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays actual problems of linguistic researches are closely connected to the modern aspects such as gender linguistics, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics, linguo-culturology and so son. This article is also devoted to the comparative analyses of gender issues in different system languages, especially, in Uzbek, English and Russian. While we are discussing about gender issues, firstly, we should be conscious of what is gender itself? The term gender is originally mentioned in the 1970s as the object of social sciences.

It means that the term gender is transferred into other fields of science from sociology.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Gender linguistics is considered to be a new born branch of applied linguistics that does not own long and rich history. It was recognized as an independent aspect approximately in the late of 20th century. The term “gender” was firstly introduced in 1963 by American scientist Robert Stroller who was the author of numerous books on psychology. At the same time,



R. Stroller claimed to study gender separately from “sex” and suggested fundamental notions in his outstanding book named “Sex and Gender: On the Development of Masculinity and Femininity” [1:383]. It was regarded as the beginning of the researches on gender issues in social sciences.

In the comparing languages further researches on gender and language can be divided into two periods which have particular characteristics and features. According to A.V.Kirilina, a pioneer of gender linguistics in Russia, the procedure of learning gender is divided into two steps: metagender and gender [4:112]. It means that the primary stage of the gender studies is called metagender. In this stage, scientific researches were devoted to the process of defining term gender and finding out the differences between biological “sex” and social “gender”. As the result, the complex of general notions about gender concept has been developed in the metagender stage. The findings can be used in all aspects and branches of science, because they are very common and universal considerations. To illustrate, American sociologist E. Giddens, defining the concept of gender, notes: “If the sex of an individual is biologically determined, then gender is culturally and socially constructed. Thus; there are two sexes (male and female) and two genders (masculine and feminine)” [5:153].

In the English language C.West and D.Zimmerman contributed to the development of fundamental theories on gender linguistics. According to “Doing gender”, gender is something that we are born with, and it is not something we have, but it is something we do. Moreover, C.West and D.Zimmerman noted that gender reflects more accurately and clearly on what people do than they have. In “Doing gender”, gender is identified as a social complex that includes 3 types of human activities: perceptual, interactional, and micropolitical. These activities aim to identify

masculine and feminine nature and personality in socialization.

Uzbek linguists N.Nasrullayeva, M.Abduvakhobova, D.Ashurova, S.Safarov, A.Mamatov, X.Dadaboyev, M.Rasulova, A.Morozova, G.Tleumuratov, G.Ergasheva, I.Tukhtasinov, G.Ergasheva, F.Musayevaning are also investigating particular issues on gender, some linguistic problems related to gender have been stressed in their publications and researches.

Sh.Usmonova gives her own definition to gender in her book named “Linguo-culturology” as followings: Gender is a socio-linguistic-cultural category and does not imply the traditional study of sex. Gender is a large set of social and psychological processes, as well as cultural instructions and rules that arise in society and affect the national language and morals of the individual [2:191].

G.Ergasheva shares her views on using the term gender in Uzbek. She thinks that particular features should be taken into account while consuming a new term in native language. She points this criteria as terminological adequacy that is the fact of being enough or satisfactory for a particular purpose. Lexical level of Uzbek language is rich in lexes and lexemes to convey units in speech and language. Since we have the words and units which mean biological sex and social gender differently, the term gender can be used in native language in purpose. According to M.Abduvakhobova. the gender term is borrowed to philology from social sciences.

Later the term gender has been added to the dictionaries as lexical unit of language and speech. Here you can see some examples for the definitions of lex “gender” from productive dictionaries:

Gender a group of people in a society who share particular qualities or ways of behaving which that society associates with being male, female, or another



identity [6:1]. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, gender is defined as a group.

But definitions can considerably differ from each other, since general notions about gender are not the same. While we are trying to guess the meaning of the term gender, we face up several alternative definitions. Especially, in Oxford dictionary, gender is stated as a fact and a class.

Gender:

a) the fact of being male or female, especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences, rather than differences in biology; members of a particular gender as a group.

b) {countable, uncountable} (grammar) (in some languages) each of the classes (masculine, feminine and sometimes neuter) into which nouns, pronouns and adjectives are divided; the division of nouns, pronouns and adjectives into these different genders. Different genders may have different endings, etc [7:1]. According to Merriam Webster dictionary, gender is primarily regarded to be a subclass within a language:

Gender:

a) subclass within a grammatical class (such as noun, pronoun, adjective, or verb) of a language that is partly arbitrary but also partly based on distinguishable characteristics (such as shape, social rank, manner of existence, or sex) and that determines agreement with and selection of other words or grammatical forms.

b) membership of a word or a grammatical form in such a subclass

c) an inflectional form showing membership in such a subclass [8:1]

Secondary stage of gender studies is named gender, which includes more specialized linguistic studies. M.A.Tomskaya emphasized that the second stage is specialized to satisfy scientific needs to create linguistic character of human beings in world science [1:112]. Among Russian linguists V.N. Teliya, A.G. Fomina, M.S. Kolesnikova, M.D. Gorodnikova, V.A.

Efremov, A.V.Kirilina, M.S. Kolesnikova, M.V. Tomskaya, I.I. Xaleyeva, E.S. Gritsenko, E.A. Gorosh, M.V.Vogman, O.L. Kamenskaya explored matters fastening gender and language in their scientific investigations. We think that these researches are aimed to coin following issues:

1. Relation between language and gender
2. The influence of gender factor in language use
3. Similarities and differences of men's and women's speech
4. Identification of masculinity and femininity in language.

It means that two stages of gender studies mentioned above have their own particular features and differences. The first universal metagender stage summarized fundamental linguistic theories about gender, while the second stage focus on more practical implementation than general notions. In the latter period, gender factor has been integrated with human factor and language use.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that, sex is biological index which human beings own immediately after the birth, while gender is social index that is formed for several years in the process of socialization of individuals. All the definitions mentioned above present the summary that gender is complex term to define in scientific researches. It means that people have different perspectives on gender. Although various approaches to the study of gender have been observed in the metagender stage, these researches are considered to be universal for all spheres those investigate gender.

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